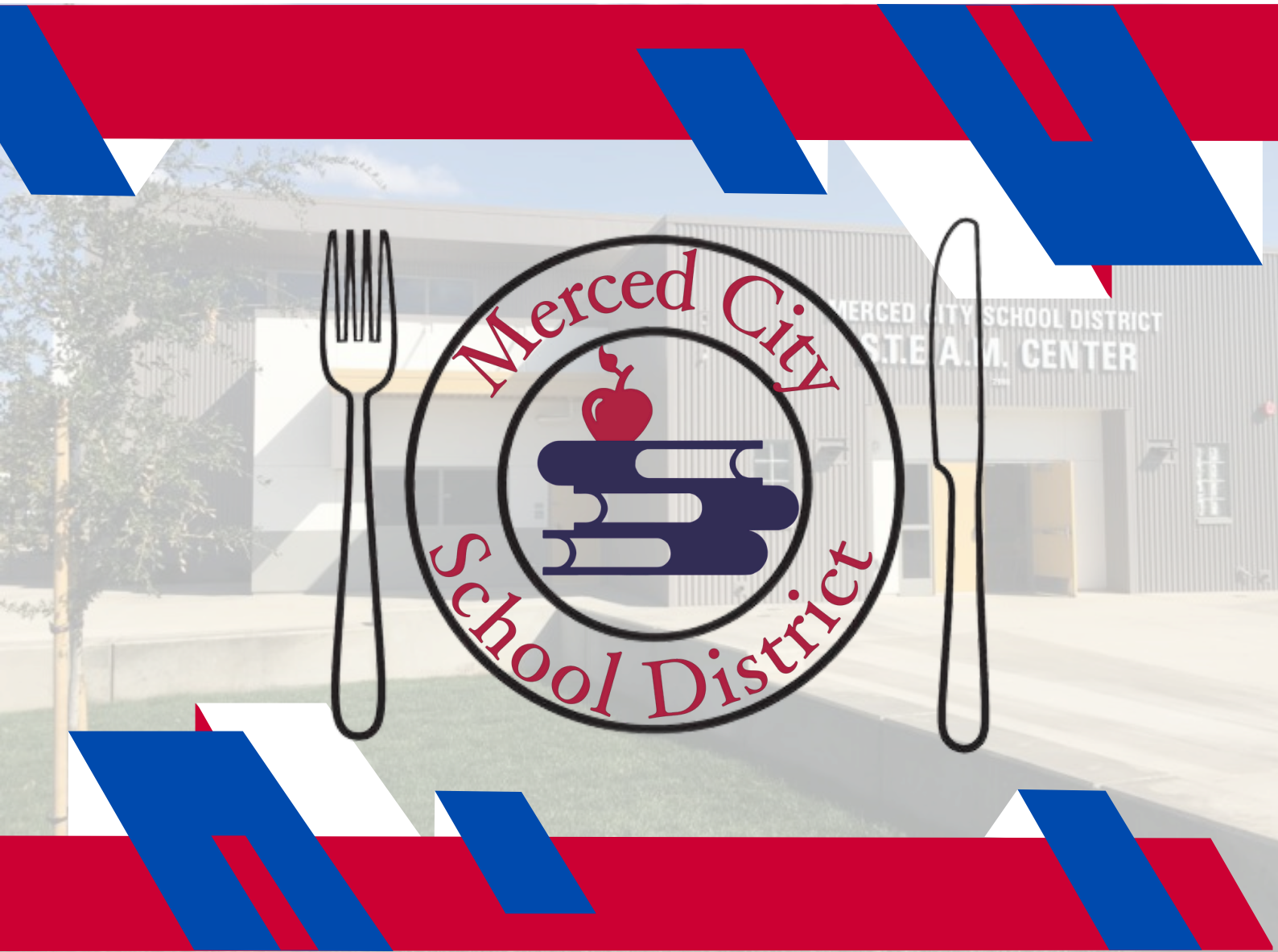


September 3, 2024

Merced City School District

# Dinner with a STEM Professional



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**4:30** Registration

**4:55** Keynote

**5:20** Appetizer & Conversation with  
STEM Pro #1

**5:50** Break

**6:00** Entree & Conversation with a  
STEM Pro #2

**6:30** Break


**6:40** Dessert & Conversation with a  
STEM Pro #3

**7:15** Appreciations & Conclusion



# WELCOME

Welcome to Merced City School District's first Dinner with a STEM Professional!

- Thank you to each STEM Pro who is volunteering their time and sharing their experience and expertise!
  - We are grateful to Mr. Duane Habecker, Speaker and Mathematician Extraordinaire for sharing his passion with us tonight!
  - We hope that students learn about STEM careers and fully understand that success requires persistence as we strive to fail forward.
  - May all of us enjoy an evening immersed in learning that may ignite new passion, curiosity and interest in each of us!
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# PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHIES

## Jeremy Spangler

Information Systems Specialist  
Merced City School District

**Table 1, 2, 3**  
jspangler@mercedcsd.org

I've always been fascinated by technology and how it works. In high school, I spent countless hours tinkering with computers, trying to understand their inner workings. This curiosity naturally led me to pursue a career in IT. To further my education, I attended Fresno State University, where I honed my technical skills and gained a solid foundation in computer science. Working in IT is a mix of problem-solving, creativity, and staying ahead of the curve. It's about diving into complex systems, understanding how they tick, and figuring out how to make them better. From building websites to securing networks, the work is challenging but incredibly rewarding. The tech world is constantly evolving, so there's always something new to learn and master. If you're a critical thinker with a knack for problem-solving, IT might be the perfect fit.

## Dr. Robert Davies

Professor of Geology, Astronomy & Physical Science  
Merced College

**Table 2, 3, 1**  
davies.r@mccd.edu

Dr. Robert Davies has been a professor of Geology, Astronomy, and Physical science for 18 years at Merced College. He has previously worked as a consulting paleontologist and engineering geologist. Dr. Davies projects and community outreach include public viewings of astronomical events at Merced College and field trips with the Geology club.

## Ms. Eleanor King

CITRIS Outreach and Education Coordinator  
CITRIS at UC Merced

**Table 3, 1, 2**  
eking5@ucmerced.edu

As the outreach and education coordinator for CITRIS at UC Merced, Eleanor King is responsible for bringing educational science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs to schools within the Central Valley. She received her B.S. in Environment and Sustainability from Catawba College in 2020, where she pursued a mix of community engagement and community-based conservation research for her undergraduate honors thesis in northwestern Madagascar. She holds an M.S. in Environmental Science and Policy with a focus in Conservation Science and Policy from George Mason University, having completed her thesis research on the outcomes of reforestation efforts in Ranomafana, Madagascar. She continues to find ways to bridge gaps between communities and scientists in her current work, running educational drone programming and more.

## Ms. Janet Pryor-Parr

Clinical Informatics Market Director  
Mercy Medical Center Merced, Dignity Health

**Table 4, 5, 6**  
janet.pryorparr@commonspirit.org

I always knew I wanted to go into healthcare. There are so many career options in healthcare and nursing, whether directly working with patients, working in administration, getting involved in the IT, or a myriad of other options. After 10 years of bedside nursing, which I loved immensely, I was asked to participate in a project to create an electronic health record (EHR) for Mercy Medical Center here in Merced. The administration in Merced was visionary, creating an EHR way ahead of most hospitals in California at the time. Once I got involved with this project, I learned how to build the electronic record, creating computer codes that directed how staff document their care and adding safety alerts that helped staff make clinical decisions. I discovered I had a new talent and a new passion called Clinical Informatic, where I not only help patients but also help my colleagues who are directly working with patients develop more efficient documentation and workflows in healthcare. Clinical Informatics a fast changing environment and is always challenging but exceptionally rewarding.

# PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHIES

## Dr. Michael Findlater

Professor of Chemistry, Interim Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, University of California, Merced

**Table 5, 6, 4**  
michaelfindlater@ucmerced.edu

I was raised in a small village just outside of Glasgow, Scotland. After undergraduate studies at The University of Strathclyde, which included a one-year appointment at Merck, I pursued a graduate degree at The University of Texas at Austin under the tutelage of Professor Alan H. Cowley. I chose to remain in the US for a post-doctoral appointment, and in the summer of 2008 I moved to The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My post-doc was carried out in the group of Professor Maurice Brookhart and was focused on the activation of inert C-H bonds using late transition metal catalysts. After ten years at Texas Tech University I recently moved to UC Merced as Professor of Chemistry.

## Mr. Stuart Rawling

CEO  
Agrecom, Inc.

**Table 6, 4, 5**  
stuart@agrecom.net

My background is in software development and experienced working with some of the biggest names in tech. In recent years, I shifted focus into the agricultural and services industry. My work is all about harnessing the power of technology to advance biosecurity practices, particularly in the poultry and live production industries. If you're passionate about using technology to drive innovation in agriculture, I'm here to share insights and help you make an impact.

## Dr. Mark Super

Forensic Pathology

**Table 7, 8, 9**  
markasupermd@gmail.com

I received my BS in 1974 in Physical Therapy from The University Of North Dakota. While working as a PT I realized that I liked caring for people and could do that even better as a doctor. So I returned to school and earned my MD in 1980. While I was a resident physician in the US Navy I was introduced to the specialty of Forensic Pathology, which is essentially using medicine and applying it as a detective to figure out why someone dies. It became my passion. We do this primarily by performing autopsies. We look for clues on the body and in the body that can determined the cause and manner of someone's death. If the death is the result of a crime, such as a homicide, then the Forensic Pathologist will often be required to tesify in court about what we found at the autopsy, which assists the community in fighting crime. Autopsies of people who died of natural causes often provides relief for family members who may not know why their loved one died and thus can bring them closure.

## Mrs. Kathy Kanemoto

Professor of Computer Science and Drone Technology  
Merced College

**Table 8, 9, 7**  
kanemoto.k@mccd.edu

Kathy Kanemoto has been teaching Computer Science at Merced College since 2009 and is currently the Acting-Coordinator of Computer Science. She is dedicated to researching innovative teaching methods and developing pathways for students to earn their Computer Science degrees and succeed as Computer Scientists and Technologists. Kathy is currently working on drone technology and AI projects to create opportunities for students to enter and excel in these emerging fields. For more information on these pathways, visit her website: [Biography](#)



## Mr. Angelo Mantoan

Director of Operations and Clinical Services  
Mercy Medical Center Merced, Dignity Health

**Table 9, 7, 8**  
angelo.mantoan@commonspirit.org

Angelo Mantoan is a Master of Science prepared nurse. Who has been working in healthcare since age 15. Passionate to the field of nursing, caring, promoting health and better quality of life to patients and communities. Experiences include, bedside nursing in Orthopedics, Medical Surgical, palliative/end of life care and home health. Several years of experience in healthcare business development and expert in implementing changes. After several years working with a National Hospice organization in several executive positions, joined Dignity Health in 2017. For the past 5 years working as the Director of Operations and Clinical Services with Mercy Home Care-Dignity Health.

## Dr. Ryan Baxter

Professor of Organic Chemistry  
University of California, Merced

**Table 10, 11, 12**  
rbaxter@ucmerced.edu

Professor Ryan D. Baxter is a physical organic chemist whose research focuses on studying single-electron transfers in organic systems. He has degrees from the University of Wisconsin, Madison (2005), and the University of Michigan (2007, 2010). He is currently an Associate Professor and Chair of the Chemistry & Biochemistry department at the University of California, Merced. Professor Baxter also works as a STEM outreach specialist to promote effective science communication performing demo shows for K-12 grade students. Recent research group interests include the study of luminescent organic molecules and artificial growing conditions for agricultural products.

## Dr. Marie Bruley

Dean of Instruction, STEM, Merced College

**Table 11, 12, 10**  
bruley.m@mccd.edu

Dr. Bruley began teaching full-time at Merced College in 2005 in the discipline of mathematics. Prior to that she taught at CSU Stanislaus as a lecturer and part-time at CSU Sacramento. She served as the Academic Senate President, representing the Merced College faculty and served on many committees as a faculty representative. Dr. Bruley transitioned into the Dean of Instruction over STEM in the summer of 2023. She has worked at Merced College for 19 years.

## Mr. Mike Jensen

Public and Government Relations Manager,  
Merced Irrigation District

**Table 12, 10, 11**  
mjensen@mercedid.org

My education is in both science and journalism which has given me a unique ability to explain difficult concepts with simple language. I began my career as an environmental reporter at the Sonora Union Democrat reporting on such issues as water management and logging issues in the Central Sierra Nevada. I went on to work at the Merced Sun Star as an editor and reporting on local government. From there I went to work for now-retired Congressman Dennis Cardoza for many years, both in Washington, DC and here in Merced. For the past 13 years I have worked for Merced Irrigation District on a host of legislative and policy matters with state and federal legislation. In addition to my government affairs work, I also manage the District's public outreach and education. Among the most important inspirations to me in my youth was astronomer Carl Sagan, who was a strong advocate for explaining the importance of scientific discoveries to those who did not have a formal education in science.

# DWASP




## NOTES



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# Ask a STEM Pro

 If you enjoyed this event, we have 3 additional opportunities to seek and provide mentorship for student science and engineering fair projects!

Ask a STEM Pro Event 1  
October 3  
Theme: Asking Questions &  
Defining Problems

Ask a STEM Pro Event 2  
November 7  
Theme: Collecting & Analyzing  
Data

Ask a STEM Pro Event 1  
November 21  
Theme: Drawing Conclusions &  
Next Steps

Student Sign Up



Mentor Sign Up

