

Lorain County Community College

Fall 2018 STEM Forum Speaker Bios and Titles of Their Talks – October 25, 2018



David Levine – Innovation Talk Title: Soon to be finalized

David Levine is President of Wireless Environment. In 2006 David Levine and Mike Recker founded Wireless Environment, Mr Beams® parent company, to create innovative wireless LED lighting. Under their leadership, the company has acquired 26 issued utility patents, 10 issued design patents and 17 patents pending in the United States for its products and technology, and has grown from four employees in 2012 to more than 25 employees in 2017. The company has also expanded its product selection across three product lines: Mr Beams®, ReadyBright® and NetBright®, and has the top selling light on Amazon.com in its category. In January 2018, Ring acquired Wireless Environment. Shortly thereafter Ring was acquired by Amazon.

Prior to Wireless Environment, David launched 21 consumer products and built a power tool company to \$4 million in sales in five years. A Senior Product Manager at Black & Decker and DeWalt from 1995 until 1999, he launched the rotary tool business and later managed the cutting, drilling and screw driving accessory categories. In 2000, he co-founded Home Products and launched eleven Kitchen Drawer Power Tools,™ including the Mini Powered Screwdriver, the first miniature powered screwdriver. David earned an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BA in History from Washington University.



Fred Ode – Innovation Talk Title: Critical Components for Entrepreneurial Success

When Fred Ode, CEO/Chairman of Foundation Software, started his company in 1985, he had a single goal: to build a company that would be a dominant force in the construction accounting software industry. A high school math teacher turned computer programmer and entrepreneur, Fred didn't always have such an intense focus. Throughout his twenties, he alternated between teaching and traveling extensively across the United States and Europe, sometimes with little more than a backpack and pocket change. It wasn't until he enrolled in an MBA course at Cleveland State University that he discovered his true passion — programming. Since then, developing his own software and organically building a business from one employee to almost 300 with a unique, national reputation. Today, Fred is chairman/CEO of Foundation Software and Payroll4Construction.com, a family of companies designed to lead in helping contractors run the business side of their construction business.



Dr. Regan Silvestri – Innovation Talk Title: “Monitoring the Condition of In-Use Lubricating Oils: How One Small Idea Saved a Lot of Time and Money”

Dr. Silvestri is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Lorain County Community College. Professor Silvestri holds a doctorate degree in polymer engineering from Case Western Reserve University. Among his many research activities, he directs a student research group investigating the science of the flavor of whiskey. He previously completed a volunteer service assignment in the U.S. Peace Corps as a Visiting Professor of

Environmental Science in Kazakhstan where he lived and worked for four years. For fun, Professor Silvestri performs his science magic show “Magical Science!!” at local schools, and has reached audiences of tens-of-thousands of enthusiastic students.