



A Fond Farewell & New Beginnings

Dear TVCOG Supporters, Members & Partners,

I write to share with you the news that Cheryl Kennedy's tenure as Executive Director at Tech Valley Center of Gravity has come to a close, as she has accepted a new position working in higher education.

It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside Cheryl these past two years, in both my role as the Board President of the Tech Valley Center of Gravity and as Senior Vice President at the Center for Economic Growth. Cheryl was instrumental in leading the COG staff and community during the rise of COVID-19, ensuring that the COG was able to continue offering value to the membership and the public, thus keeping our doors open and programs solvent. Cheryl cares deeply about our mission, and plans to serve as a volunteer advisor to our high school education programs. We are thankful for her many contributions to our organization and wish her all the best in this new venture.

As the Board President, I would like you all to know that though we are still in recovery from COVID-19 impacts, Cheryl is leaving us in good condition as we move forward. TVCOG's Board of Directors will be convening a committee to begin the process of selecting a new Executive Director, and are hopeful to have a new ED in place as soon as possible. In the interim, Dan Falkenstrom, our current Facilities & Manufacturing Incubator Director, will be filling the Interim Director position. Dan is incredibly well-versed in our programs and operations, and is fully equipped to step into this role. Temporary additional staffing will be brought on to make up gaps in day to day operation during this interim period. If anyone has questions about the transition, please reach out to me at chair@tvkog.net. We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this transitional period.

--Michael Lobsinger, Board Chair

News from the Makerspace

In the Spotlight...

Workshop: 3D Printing For Kids

We're excited to announce that our popular "3D Printing For Kids" workshop has returned!

This hands-on workshop will introduce aspiring young makers (ages 8 and up) to the basics of 3D printing. Participants will explore 3D modeling, learn how to use the popular free online 3D design software, TinkerCAD, and learn to use the 3D printers available here at TVCOG. Students will create a 3D printed keychain that can be taken home at the end of the class.

Parents not required to stay in building for class. Masks are required of all participants, regardless of vaccination status.

[Learn More & Register](#)



NOVEMBER 20, 12-3PM

Upcoming Classes



Woodworking, jewelry making, welding and more; whatever your field of interest, we have a class to help you discover your inner maker!

TVCOG is currently offering small-size, hands-on classes in a range of topics, open to both members and non-members ages 18+ for our Fall-Winter trimester.

Classes with open registration include:



Craft 101: Silver Rings

Use three different techniques to create three of your own unique silver rings.



Woodshop 201: Intro to the Lathe

Use the lathe in the woodshop to create a custom pen.



Craft 107: Pewter Casting

Learn pewter casting, a fun and fast way to make unique metal objects, in this hands-on class.

[See All Classes Open for Registration](#)

COVID-19 Class Policies: We are committed to ensuring the safety of our members, instructors and class participants. Along with social distancing, we follow a strict cleaning and sanitizing regimen. Classes for adults may allow fully vaccinated individuals to attend the class without a mask, provided proof of vaccination; please check the event description for each individual class policy.

Additional Events & Programs

October Troy Night Out: Halloween

Fri, October 29 | 6-8pm

Halloween is almost here! TVCOG will be open to the public for tours during October Troy Night Out from 6-8pm. Our volunteers will be giving out candy to celebrate the holiday, so come by to check out the candy cannon!

General Membership Meeting*

Tues, October 2 | 6:30pm

Join us for our monthly membership meeting, which will feature special guest Kim Sparkman, Principal of Innovative Programs for Questar III BOCES, who will discuss volunteer opportunities and mentorship opportunities for COG members.

Work Zone Office Hours*

Zone Office Hours allow members to connect with the Zone Coordinator, to get help with anything related to the zone.

Office hours are available for the Electronics Zone at 7pm on Tuesdays with Amelia, and in the Metal Shop at 6pm on Wednesdays with Alex.

** Indicates events which are only open to **TVCOG members**. Please [pre-register online](#) for Office Hours.*

News from the Manufacturing Incubator

National Manufacturing Day is October 1



Presented by the National Association of Manufacturers, The Manufacturing Institute, MEP Centers, and federal agency partners, National Manufacturing Day (MFG Day) is intended to show the world what modern manufacturing is all about. Across the country, different organizations will participate by hosting a variety of events; TVCOG will be featuring some of our member businesses on [our Facebook page](#) to showcase our role in the local manufacturing landscape.

[Learn more about MFG Day here.](#)

-- Dan Falkenstrom, Facilities & Incubator Director

Upcoming Incubator Events & Programs



HATCHED Inventors & Entrepreneurs Meetup

Thurs Oct 7 | 7-8pm

This monthly program is co-hosted by the Tech Valley Center of Gravity and the Capital District Inventors and Entrepreneurs Meetup.

SHARING NIGHT: An informal gathering where attendees can introduce themselves and show off what they've been working on. Share your project's current status, get and give feedback, explore next steps, and connect with potential team members.

[Register Here](#)



Food for Thought #13: Customer & Market Discovery to Drive Product Design

Weds Oct 6 | 12-1pm

Join us virtually for an open conversation with Robert Manasier and Samuel Mere of IgniteU NY about customer discovery and market observation. Robert and Samuel will discuss how to practically apply these principles to your design before you build it.

Send your questions ahead of time to manufacturingincubator@tvcog.net so we can create a dynamic dialogue for the lunch hour!

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

Prototyping & Manufacturing Classes

PROTOTYPING & MANUFACTURING
WORKSHOP 201:

BASIC CNC FURNITURE DESIGN,
JOINERY & FABRICATION



An Introduction to The Fusion 360 Design &
Manufacturing Workspaces

PRESENTED BY MICHAEL LOBSINGER

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS GROWTH SOLUTIONS AT CEG

**Prototyping 201: Basic CNC
Furniture Design, Joinery &
Fabrication**

Weds Oct 27 | 6-9pm

This course is designed to expand upon participants' existing knowledge of working with Fusion360 by introducing project based lessons leveraging design methodologies for CNC router joining designs. Students will be introduced to joiner concepts, creating 3D designs and assemblies from drawings, and gaining familiarity with 2D contouring setup's in manufacturing workspace.

Held by Michael Lobsinger, Senior Vice President of Business Growth Solutions at the Center for Economic Growth (CEG).

\$50 COG Members | \$100 Non-Members

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

News from the THINQubator

It's Time for Some Spooooky STEM!



October in the THINQubator is all about

Halloween! This month is the perfect time to try out some fun, seasonal STEM activities, like [Pepper's Ghost](#), an old theatre illusion used to create a "ghost" on stage. You can also join in at our monthly STEAM-Powered Saturday event, which features a Halloween twist, or stop by during Troy Night Out on October 29, to check out the COG candy cannons!

We're also spending time this month gearing up for our annual Giving Tuesday campaign in November, when we will be raising money to renovate the THINQubator. More details coming soon!

-- Elisabeth Kuchera, Events and Program Specialist

Upcoming Classes & Events



in the THINQubator at the Albany Center of Gravity

October
2021



Dancing
Pumpkin
Robots

**Next STEAM-Powered Saturday:
Pumpkin Bots**

Saturday, Oct. 2 | 10am-1pm FREE

Every 1st Saturday children ages 4-12 and their families are invited to join us for a fun, creative hands-on project. Brought to you through the generous support of the Albany Society of Engineers Foundation, these mind-expanding projects help children discover creative play through science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics.

This month's project is "Dancing Pumpkin Robots!" This festive spin on the traditional brush bot allows participants to create their own dancing styrofoam pumpkin robots to celebrate fall! This is an in-person, drop-in program; pre-registration is not required. Masks are required for all attendees.

Updates from our Creative Community

Made at the COG

What our Members are working on right now.



TVCOG Member and volunteer Sabrina was working on a stained glass design during one of our regular Tuesday social nights. Check back soon to see the final project!



Longtime member and volunteer Heather has started making her own Halloween decorations, including this adorable crocheted Baby Yoda pumpkin plush!



This spooky, original wall art is courtesy of TVCOG member Yamar! To check out more of his work, head over to his store, [Yamaguchie](#), on Lark St. in Albany.

Featured Sponsor



The [Troy Waterfront Farmers Market](#) is an award-winning, producer-only farmers market operating every Saturday, 9am-2pm, year-round in Troy, NY. The market is currently outside in Riverfront Park through the end of October.

[Click Here to Learn About Sponsorship](#)

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is a makerspace, prototyping center, manufacturing incubator, STEAM-education center and creative community located in the heart of downtown Troy, New York. A member-supported 501(c)(3) community resource organization, the Center of Gravity serves members from Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga and Schenectady counties and beyond with space, tools, technology and expertise to explore and exercise their creativity, turn ideas into objects of art and utility, and launch new ventures based on their own ingenuity.

Join Our Creative Community

We are open and operating at standard hours. Membership hours and access types depend on the membership level you choose. Membership is open to anyone ages 18+ so [join today!](#)

TVCOG's COVID-19 Protocols

Tech Valley Center of Gravity is committed to following guidelines set forth by New York State and to ensuring the safety of our community members. Review our Covid-19 policies and procedures [here](#).

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