



THE STEWARD SCHOOL

For Immediate Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY for Wednesday, April 19

Leah Buechley, inventor of wearable technologies, to visit

The Steward School for “Beautiful Technology” program

Program is FREE to community: afternoon maker fair, evening discussion

WHO:

- Leah Buechley, artist, electrical engineer, inventor, and educator
- Dan Frank, Head of School
- JK-12 students and teachers from The Steward School, including instructors from the Bryan Innovation Lab
- Entrepreneurs, Maker Movement participants and other inventors
- Parents, children, and others from the Richmond community

WHAT:

As part of the 2016-2017 Bryan Innovation Lab Visiting Innovators Program, The Steward School is hosting Leah Buechley, an inventor and educator in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) movement. The program is *“Beautiful Technology: Blending high tech with traditional craft to bring programming off of our screens and into our hands.”*

While on campus, Ms. Buechley will participate in activities that are free and open to the Richmond community, including an afternoon Maker Fair and an evening lecture and discussion. Participants will learn about cutting-edge tools and future trends of interactive wearable technology. Ms. Buechley will share her insights as a female entrepreneur developing products that are accessible to anyone interested in designing and building their own inventions.

Ms. Buechley will discuss:

- Her leading-edge work as founder of the High-Low Tech Group at MIT Media Lab. This includes human-centered design, blending craft materials such as textiles and papers embedded with electronic technologies. This concept of wearable technology opens new, creative opportunities for a broad array of people to learn about inventions used in robotics, fashion, sports, medical fields, and more.
- Her invention of the LilyPad Arduino, a wearable technology that can be sewn to fabric and connects to power supplies, sensors, and actuators using a conductive thread.
- The importance of preparing children, especially girls, for STEM-related careers.

To view Ms. Buechley’s TED Talk, which more than 750,000 people have watched, click here:

https://www.ted.com/talks/leah_buechley_how_to_sketch_with_electronics

WHEN: Wednesday, April 19

3:15 p.m.

Maker Fair: This family-friendly event will include hands-on activities with textiles, technology, circuits, and design. Guest exhibitors include

the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts; VCU Department of Fashion Design; Build, RVA; and the Science Museum of Virginia.

5:30 p.m.

Lecture and Discussion (*Children's activities offered during this program.*)

WHERE: Bryan Innovation Lab (on The Steward School campus)

11600 Gayton Road, Richmond, Virginia 23238
(804) 740-3394

RSVP: Registration is recommended for all events:

<https://www.stewardschool.org/beautifultechnology>

DETAILS: Leah Buechley is among three thought leaders featured in the 2016-17 Bryan Innovation Lab Visiting Innovators Program. While on campus, these innovators share their expertise in a variety of ways—they speak to students, work with classes on relevant issues, make presentations that are open to the Richmond community, and conduct workshops for educators and families. This furthers The Steward School's commitment to fostering innovation in students and the greater Richmond community. The program is made possible through support from the Edward E. Ford Foundation, Robins Foundation, and Luck Companies Foundation. For more information, visit <http://www.stewardschool.org/vip>.

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