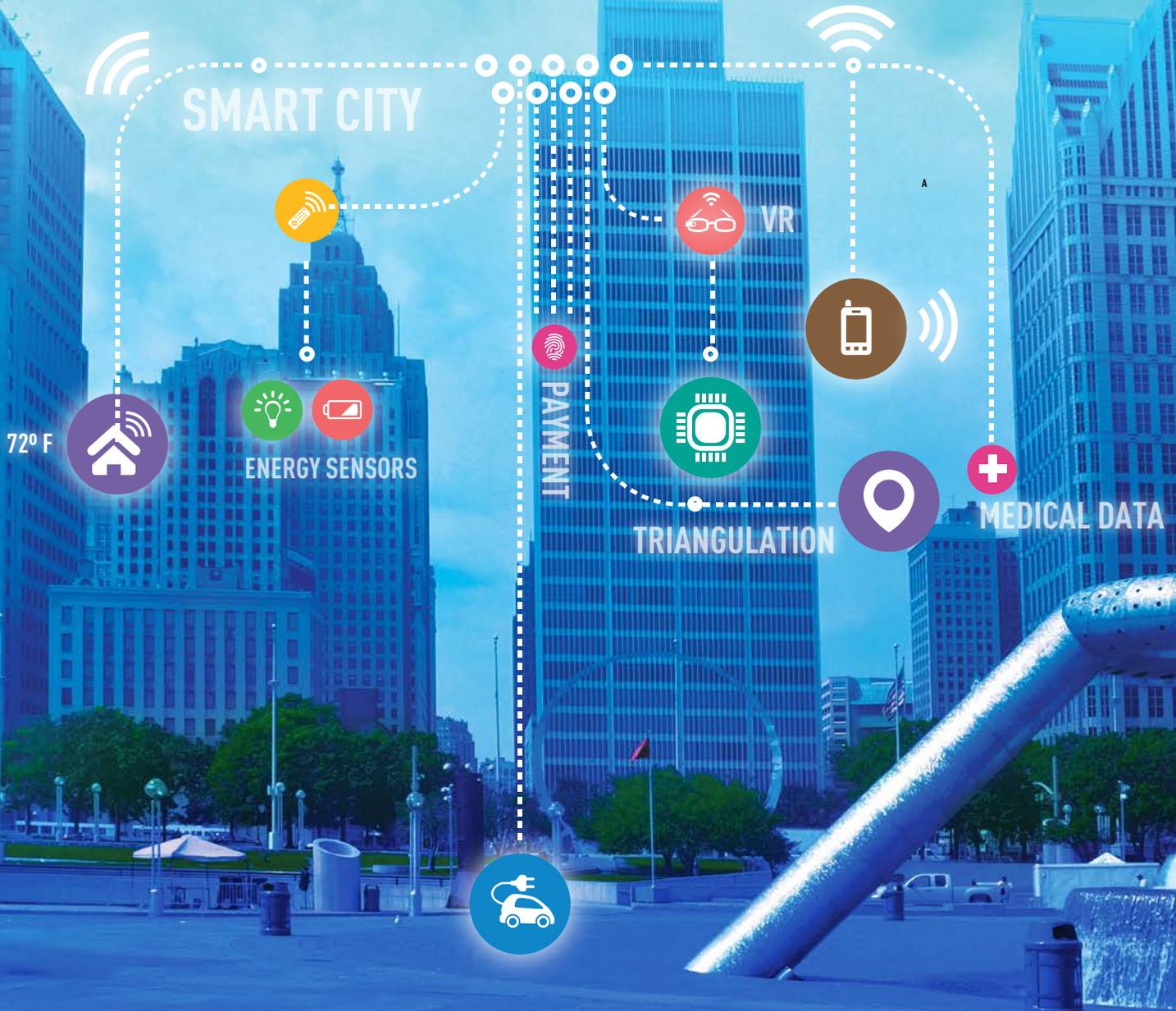


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THE SMART SENSORS ISSUE



Complimentary
Members-Only
Event at DENSO
October 27

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Kirk Steudle
receives Rackham
Humanitarian
Award

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Intellectual
Property in the
Information
Age

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ESD Member
Rebecca Spearot
inspiring girls to
love STEM.

INSPIRED and INSPIRING

Long-time ESD member shares love of science with new generation

Do you want to know how to get young girls interested in science, technology, engineering and math? Send them to a camp where they can build catapults, create ‘goop,’ develop balloon-powered cars and devise their own mood rings, that’s how. And that’s exactly what **Rebecca Spearot**, an ESD Fellow and member since 1977, has been involved in to inspire the next generation of female engineers.

Spearot’s 40-year work history includes serving as a Senior Consultant with the Bureau Veritas office in Denver as well as Director of Environmental Management for Lear Corporation and teaching at the University of Detroit–Mercy in the Engineering Department. Since moving to Colorado and becoming involved in the Keystone Science School STEM program and Colorado Science Fair, she has shared her love of science as well as her understanding of how an interest in science and math can initially be difficult for girls.

“Sometimes girls can worry that it’s nerdy or geeky,” she explains. “When I was a young girl growing up in England, I was very shy. My math skills were very good and my interest was in science, but there really wasn’t a lot of discussion about girls becoming engineers. It was a challenge at first, but I was encouraged and eventually able to pursue a career in what I love.”

By volunteering at Keystone Science School, she is able to make sure other young women can, too.

“The Girls in STEM program explores not only the STEM concepts in an empowering girls-only environment, but also highlights real women, like Rebecca, currently working in STEM careers. This program builds leadership and collaboration between the girls as they engage in fun, hands-on activities that impart new skills and confidence in science, tech, engineering, and math - areas in which girls are inclined to be wallflowers,” explains Ellen Reid, Executive Director of Keystone Science School.

During the camps, volunteers like Spearot work to promote positive growth feedback. This includes reflective conversation and journaling to stimulate inward thought and consideration of leadership and academic potential, Reid says.

Spearot says the ability to give back is exceedingly rewarding, “I’m finding a wonderful place in retirement where I continue my love of math and science. It’s good to be able to work with these enthusiastic young people and build a supportive place for them to grow.”

Editor’s note: STEM programs are an important and growing opportunity throughout the country. Here in Michigan, ESD has many opportunities for members to volunteer at the middle school, high school and college levels. Please call 248-353-0735 or email esd@esd.org for more information.