The JV InvenTeam initiative is an opportunity for educators to engage ninth and tenth grade students in learning the hands-on and minds-on aspects of inventing to enrich their science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills. JV InvenTeams are currently located in Massachusetts, Texas, Oregon, and California.

The Lemelson-MIT Program launched the JV InvenTeam initiative in 2014 to cultivate inventive curiosity and technical skills in students traditionally lacking access to hands-on enrichment opportunities in STEM. JV InvenTeams practice invention-based design activities and apply their learned skills to create sustainable projects.

The JV InvenTeam initiative offers:

- An inventive experience that is impactful to students and educators
- Invention kits that include themed guides and materials for students and educators
- Stanley Black & Decker® donated tools to assist young inventors
- Fun, hands-on & minds-on application of STEM
- Teamwork
- Opportunity to visit a college campus

Benefits of the program from JV InvenTeam students:

- Increased interest in inventing and seeking out invention activities
- Enjoyed learning hands-on and minds-on aspects of inventing
- Most enjoyable skills to learn were the most challenging
- Learning to work on a team was an exciting opportunity
- Gained skills and knowledge in the inventing process, engineering design process, teamwork, working with tools and new technology skills

Four current themed guides:

- Shoe Soles
- Hydroponics
- Noise Makers
- Electronic Textiles

“I learned some new methods of design that I believe I can use a lot in the future. One of my favorite methods was the process of mold making with shoe design, which I can apply to making robotics parts in the future.”

– JV InvenTeam student
Benefits of the program from JV InvenTeam educators:

- Students were highly engaged by JV InvenTeam activities
- Students’ inventive thinking improved during the program
- Students’ technical skills were improved as a result of the participating in the program
- JV InvenTeams had a positive impact on educators both personally and professionally
- Educators were highly satisfied with the notebooks and program materials

It was exciting to see the students engaged with hands on learning, being creative, and making mistakes. It was excellent to have the materials to experiment with.
– JV InvenTeam Educator

About the Lemelson-MIT Program:

The Lemelson-MIT Program celebrates outstanding inventors and inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through invention.

Jerome H. Lemelson, one of U.S. history’s most prolific inventors, and his wife Dorothy founded the Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994. It is funded by The Lemelson Foundation and administered by the School of Engineering at MIT, an institution with a strong ongoing commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for K-12 STEM education.

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What will your students invent?