April 19, 2018

Dear <<First Name>>,

Spring weather is slowly emerging in Boston but the pace of activities at the Lemelson-MIT Program is anything but slow. In February, we moved offices from building 10 in the center of the MIT campus into an office space near Kendall Square that will help us build new partnerships with the Cambridge community. We published our first invention education peer-reviewed journal article on the topic of learning from failure that you will read more about below. Perseverance and failure were also topics mentioned in our most recent case study about Williamston High School InvenTeam published in this edition of the newsletter. We continued our free invention education webinar series every other Thursday and opened registration for our three upcoming summer professional development workshops for teachers.

All of our efforts are accomplished through partnerships with invention educators and other supporters. The Lemelson-MIT staff is very grateful to all of you for your ongoing participation, support and encouragement. We are so lucky to be working with all of you.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Couch, PhD
Executive Director
Lemelson-MIT Program
EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS IN THREE LOCATIONS THIS SUMMER

The Lemelson-MIT Program is offering invention education workshops in three locations this summer. We'll be hosting workshops in Wisconsin and California in July and Massachusetts in August. Educators interested in implementing the JV InvenTeam invention curriculum in their classroom, summer camp or after school program will want to attend these workshops. Details about each workshop and online registration is available on our website.

FREE INVENTION EDUCATION WEBINARS FOR EDUCATORS

It’s not too late to participate in our online webinars that happen every other Thursday at 6:30 p.m. ET. We launched our invention education webinar series last October and our last webinar in that series is scheduled for today, April 19th. Click here to register. We are archiving all previous webinar recordings and materials on our website so that educators can download and watch at their convenience. Click the article title link to be directed to the webinar archive.

LEMELSON-MIT MOVES OFF CAMPUS

The Lemelson-MIT Program relocated to space in Cambridge’s Kendall Square in early February. Our new address inside a renovated twine factory

STURGIS CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL INVENTEAM DEMONSTRATE NEW DOLPHIN CARRIER

The Sturgis Charter Public School developed a
Invention Education eNews

is 222 Third Street, Suite 0300 Cambridge, MA 02142. Lemelson-MIT was established in 1994 at MIT by prolific U.S. inventor Jerome Lemelson as a way of raising the statute of invention and inspiring young people to contribute to the future by inventing new technologies of tomorrow. Establishing additional community partnerships will help us create awareness of the invention pathway among youth who are not predisposed to STEM, while still carrying Jerome’s original vision for our program. Click here to see our new building location on the map.

marine mammal rescue transporter during their InvenTeam grant year in 2012-13 that continued in development through a new group of Sturgis students in 2015. The students demonstrated what they named the “Dolphin Carrier” to the International Fund for Animal Welfare on March 31 with the possibility of their invention being adopted by marine mammal scientists and rescue crews. The students exemplify what an InvenTeam can accomplish beyond the grant year when they are passionate about solving a real-world problem for their community.

2017-18 INVENTEAMS RECOGNIZED BY ELECTED OFFICIALS

InvenTeams are encouraged to engage with their local community to gain support for their work. Part of that support comes from elected officials who recognize the team’s work through congratulatory certificates. The teams held mid-grant technical reviews at their schools in February where they presented their invention to the community. Other team acknowledgements from the community included, the Frederick County Career and Technology Center’s InvenTeam was honored at the Maryland State Capitol by the State Senate, the Mayor of Houston sent the teacher and students of the Energy Institute InvenTeam a congratulatory letter and the Mayor of Appleton sent the Tesla Engineering Charter School InvenTeam a certificate of recognition. On April 4, 2018, it was declared Northeast High School InvenTeam Day in Broward County, Florida.

2018 LEMELSON-MIT STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS INVENT SOLUTIONS TO COMPELLING SOCIETY PROBLEMS

Six collegiate inventors across the country consisting of four individual graduate students and two undergraduate teams won the 2018 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for their inventions. Read about the winners and their inventions in the press release on our website. More details about each winner will be rolled out per prize category, which began with “Eat it!” on April 10, “Drive it” on April 18, “Use it!” on May 1 and ending with “Cure it!” on May 8. Follow us on social media or check our website on those dates to learn about each winner.

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LEMELSON-MIT FACULTY DIRECTOR TAKES ON NEW ROLE TO PROMOTE INNOVATION

Faculty Director, Michael Cima, will be adding co-director of the MIT Innovation Initiative and associate dean of innovation for the School of Engineering to his list of roles at the institute. He will continue to serve as Faculty Director of the Lemelson-MIT Program. We are excited for his new role that is well-matched for his passion for innovation and invention education.

LEMELSON-MIT INVENTEAM MASTER TEACHER NAMED 2018 SPACE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Mark Westlake who has been a Master Teacher with Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams initiative since 2009, was named 2018 Space Educator of the Year by the National Space Club and Foundation for his work as a teacher and director of the Saint Thomas Academy Innovation Center. Mark is a passionate teacher who has dedicated his career to helping students reach their highest potential through creativity and innovation. He’s also a highly regarded addition to the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams initiative, providing peer to peer

INVENTION AND STEM EDUCATION TRANSFORM RURAL SCHOOL IN MICHIGAN

Williamston is a small rural community in Michigan with a population of just under 4,000 residents. The high school first introduced the Math and Science Academy in 2007, officially welcoming its first freshman class in the fall of 2008. The academy featured a technology course, but Dan Schab, math teacher and then-director of the Math and Science Academy, felt students needed more opportunities to prepare themselves for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in college and their careers. They applied for the InvenTeam grant in 2010 and didn’t win. The team didn’t let failure ruin their chance for another go at the grant. Read more about how the team’s persistence and transformation.

FAILURE AS AN ACTIVE AGENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVE AND INVENTIVE MINDSETS

The first peer-reviewed research paper authored by Invention Education Officer, Leigh Estabrooks and Executive Director, Stephanie Couch

https://mailchi.mp/l9iusve4tw-1973465
support for educators during their grant year.

Go West!
September 19-21, 2018 in San Francisco CA
Making, Inventing, & Entrepreneurship:
New Pathways & New Opportunities

LEMELSON-MIT TO CO-HOST GO WEST SUMMIT

The Lemelson-MIT Program is teaming up with the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship and the California Community College’s Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy initiative to host a fall conference that will support linkages between making, inventing, and entrepreneurship offerings by high schools and two and four year colleges. The conference is September 20-21 in Burlingame, CA. Registration opens April 15th. Click on the link above to learn more or register.

explores the ways in which high school student inventors define the terms failure and learning from failure as well as what they learn about creative failure while inventing that may be applicable to other contexts. The study findings were taken from the national InvenTeam initiative and its 14-year history of helping young people from diverse backgrounds develop working prototypes of their inventions.

LEMELSON-MIT InvenTeams

35 HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATORS SELECTED FOR EXCITE AWARDS

High school educators from across the country were selected from a competitive pool of initial InvenTeam grant applications for a Lemelson-MIT Excite Award this month. This award selects them as a finalist for the 2018-19 InvenTeam grant. Current InvenTeam educators and students will have an opportunity to meet the 2018 Excite Award winners at EurekaFest in June to share their InvenTeam experiences first-hand.

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