July 18, 2018

Dear <<First Name>>,

I’m writing to you after having attended the Lemelson-MIT Program’s annual EurekaFest event for the second time in a row. It was incredibly inspiring to talk with high school students and national student prize winners from across the U.S. who showcased their inventions. I also appreciated spending time with the 36 Excite Award recipients who are preparing to submit InvenTeam grant proposals in the year ahead, and our program’s Master Teachers, prize reviewers and technical mentors.

EurekaFest was extra special this year as we were joined by both Lemelson family members and staff from The Lemelson Foundation. Eric Lemelson, Jerome Lemelson’s son, echoed the beliefs of his visionary father. He noted that his dad established our program at MIT to recognize and celebrate the next generation of American inventors with the idea that future generations will innovate using technology to solve the world’s greatest problems.

We are very grateful for the foundation’s ongoing support of our collective work. We are also grateful for donations received this year from Prasad Kothari and the Cima family which help with the cost of the event.

We now turn our attention to gearing up for two invention education workshops and a first of its kind conference on developing educational pathways for developing inventor and innovators (details below).

I sincerely hope you are having a great summer. Thanks for making time to keep up with our news!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Couch, PhD
Executive Director
Lemelson-MIT Program
EurekaFest 2018 was held June 20-22 on the MIT campus and celebrated 15 teams of high school student inventors and six collegiate inventors who won the 2018 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize competition. This year’s awards ceremony featured keynote speaker and 2013 Lemelson-MIT Prize winner, Angela Belcher who captivated the audience with her inspiring speech that encouraged high school students to not quit, even if people think your inventive ideas are crazy. Check out our photos from the event, including a video about the six Lemelson-MIT Student Prize winners.

Oregon City Service Learning Academy, a public charter high school in the Oregon City School District located near Portland, serves a largely underserved population. Invention has become a key part of the school’s mission of service to the community. Freshman and sophomore classes use Lemelson-MIT JV InvenTeams activity guides and accompanying invention kits to design unique and useful STEM projects. To Bethany Taft, who is the lead educator for JV InvenTeams, “STEM integrated through invention serves as a point of engagement for students. They get to work with their hands and learn critical soft skills such as persistence, grit, problem-solving, how to deal with failure, and how to work with other people. These skills are important to help break the cycle of poverty.”
Tustin High School in Tustin Calif. was a 2017 InvenTeam that invented a device to remove chewing gum from sidewalks and concrete surfaces. Then InvenTeam educator and now Lemelson-MIT Master Teacher, Ed Hernandez, continued the culture of invention in the Tustin Unified School District after his InvenTeam grant ended. The school implemented the JV InvenTeams Shoe Sole activity with middle school students who displayed their completed shoe sole design projects to the 12th graders at their end of year Senior Showcase. Hernandez also incorporates the activity into his 11th grade Principles of Engineering class where his students have to design a computer model of their shoe sole and 3D print the model instead of molding it in clay.

**CONFERENCE TO EXPLORE EDUCATIONAL PATHWAYS FOR INVENTION AND INNOVATION**

The Lemelson-MIT Program is teaming up with the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship and the California Community College 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, Calif.

**INVENTION EDUCATION WORKSHOP AT MIT AND CAL POLY POMONA**

It's not too late to register for our upcoming invention education workshops at Cal Poly Pomona from July 25-27 and MIT August 1-3. It's the perfect venue for any educator interested in learning how to implement the JV InvenTeams curriculum in their classroom, summer camp or after school program. Details and registration is available on our website.

**JUST RELEASED: THE INVENTION GENDER GAP**

A new special issue of *Technology and Innovation* journal of the National Academy of Inventors explores why the gender disparity exists between women and men inventors and what is being done to address the gap. The issue includes articles written by women who have keen insights into the gender gap in patenting, including an article written by Executive Director, Stephanie Couch and Invention Education Officer, Leigh Estabrooks that analyzed results from the InvenTeam initiative. The article reveals factors that supported and constrained young women inventors – information that may be critical for designing effective programming to promote young female inventors. Read highlights from the new issue or download the publication on Ingenta where you can explore each article.