May 22, 2019

Dear <<First Name>>,

As spring enters full bloom, Lemelson-MIT is busy growing our efforts to document and publish research on the impressive results of invention education. Recently, I had the pleasure of coediting and contributing articles to a special issue of *Technology & Innovation* from the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) on invention education. Other Lemelson-MIT staff members also contributed articles which examine ways middle and high school students and their teachers are learning to tackle challenges in our rapidly changing world. In addition to conducting research for this journal, I was honored to give a talk about the development of young inventors, particularly from diverse backgrounds, at NAI’s annual meeting. See below for more details.

Another large task at hand involves preparing for our annual celebration, EurekaFest. If you happen to be in the Cambridge, MA area from June 19th to the 20th, I urge you to join us for the presentations and showcases by our InvenTeams and Student Prize winners at this year’s EurekaFest at MIT. The Student Prize winners, who were recently announced, are working on life-changing devices that are already impacting the world. So too are the high school InvenTeam students from around the country, as their inventions are helping communities both near and far.

We believe that our research, programming, and outreach are seeding new directions in education that will allow invention education to flourish. I hope you can join us at EurekaFest this June in order to see first-hand how invention can bring communities of people together to solve problems.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Couch, PhD
Executive Director
Lemelson-MIT Program
LEMELESON-MIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SPEAKS AT NAI MEETING AND PUBLISHES RESEARCH IN NAI JOURNAL

The National Academy of Inventors held their annual meeting in Houston, Texas in April, where Lemelson-MIT’s Executive Director, Stephanie Couch, presented her research on inventors and ways inventiveness can be nurtured in people of all ages and from all walks of life. Stephanie also coedited and contributed research articles to NAI’s latest issue of Technology & Innovation, featuring invention education as a special topic. Other Lemelson-MIT staff members also contributed pieces that delve into what is currently happening in the world of invention education and how teachers are getting students to think and engage in work as inventors.

STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS NAMED TO NOTABLE LISTS

The American Conservation Coalition recognized Maher Damak, the 2018 “Eat it!” Lemelson-MIT Graduate Student Prize winner, in 30 Under Thirty: The Green Generation, a group of the nation’s top 30 environmental leaders under the age of thirty. Maher created biocompatible and biodegradable technologies that help agricultural chemicals stay on plants and not in soil. He also started a company called Infinite Cooling to implement a method he created to conserve water in cooling towers at power plants. Another Student Prize recipient, David Sengeh, received the accolade of being on World Economic Forum’s 2019 Young Global Leaders list. David won the 2014 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize in the “Cure it!” category for his innovative and affordable prosthetic sockets for amputees. He now serves as the Chief Innovation Officer for his home country of Sierra Leone, and is one of ten people from Africa on this year’s list. Read more: https://www.younggloballeaders.org/new-class.

A YOUNG INVENTOR DEDICATED TO BUILDING MORE PATHWAYS FOR GIRLS IN STEM

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2018 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize graduate winner, Kayla Nguyen, discusses her efforts to champion young girls who are interested in STEM in our recent case study. Growing up, Kayla says she hardly ever saw women represented in science on TV and in real life. She cites a lack of female mentors in her life until she attended college and graduate school, where she found a group of women PhD students, professors and outreach coordinators who not only taught her scientific skills, but encouraged her to pursue STEM. Kayla now strives to mentor young girls in their pursuits of STEM fields.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING YOUNG INVENTORS AT EUREKAFEST 2019
EurekaFest, our largest annual event that celebrates the inventive spirit, will take place from June 19th to the 20th at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, with presentations by high school students and exhibits open to the public. You will see the working prototypes from our 2019 Student Prize winners and our high school InvenTeam participants.

KINNOS INC WINS AWARD FROM HARVARD’S PRESIDENT
Kinnos Inc., a start-up formed by Jason Kang, Katherine Jin and Kevin Tyan, was recently awarded the $75,000 Health and Life Sciences grand prize in the Harvard Innovation Labs’ Presidential Challenge. The trio won the 2016

LEMELESON CENTER PUBLISHES BOOK ON STATE OF AMERICA’S INNOVATORS
The Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center Studies in Invention and Innovation series, has recently added a new book titled, “Does America Need More Innovators?” The book is edited by Matthew Wisnioski, Eric S. Hintz and Marie Stettler Kleine and it discusses the imminent need for more innovators, from more diverse backgrounds, who can think outside the box, and produce more responsible outcomes. To address this need, the book calls on the champions, critics and reformers of innovative programs to offer their insights into the current world of innovation.

2019 LEMELSON-MIT STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED!
The 2019 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize winners were announced on April 23rd. The winners are working on devices that are already helping to solve some of the world’s most pressing issues, from accessible healthcare to clean drinking water. The seven winners are comprised of three undergraduate teams and four, individual graduate students from colleges and universities across the country. All of the winners will showcase their prototypes at EurekaFest at MIT on June 20, 2019 from 2-5 p.m. in the Stata center. The showcase is free and open to the public.
Lemelson-MIT Student Prize in the “Cure it!” undergraduate team category for their unique invention called Highlight, a powered additive for disinfectants. Highlight turns the disinfectant solution a blue color, making it highly visible in order to prevent gaps in coverage when sprayed on a surface. It then fades to clear when decontamination is done. Kinnos Inc was formed as a means to bring Highlight to more healthcare workers across the globe, thus helping to fight the spread of disease and unnecessary loss of life due to contamination.

FORMER LEMELSON-MIT PRIZE WINNER WINS 2019 DREYFUS PRIZE FOR CHEMISTRY

MIT professor Robert Langer has been awarded the 2019 Dreyfus Prize for Chemistry in Support of Human Health. He won the Lemelson-MIT Prize in 1994 and has received numerous honors throughout the years for his many inventions, particularly in medicine. The Dreyfus Prize honors recipients who have made “discoveries and inventions of materials for drug delivery systems and tissue engineering that have had a transformative impact on human health through chemistry.”

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