May 3, 2017

Dear <<First Name>>,

Efforts to support the development of the next generation of inventors require educators who are willing to nurture young people’s creative and inventive mindsets. Please join me in celebrating leading invention educators, such as Rachel Thibault (featured in the article below), and the many other K-12 and college educators across the country who are cultivating young inventors during national Teacher Appreciation Week (May 8-12, 2017).

Given uncertainties at the federal level regarding continued investment in research, making the contributions of inventors visible to policy makers and educating key decision-makers about what is needed to support leading innovators is more important than ever. We hope this second edition of the Community of Inventors newsletter contains information that you find of interest and will want to share with others. We thank you in advance for your support!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Couch, PhD
Executive Director
Lemelson-MIT Program

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Community of Inventors

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Translate
HONORING INVENTION EDUCATORS ACROSS THE U.S. DURING TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK (May 8-12, 2017)
The Lemelson-MIT Program is grateful for the exceptional K-12 and college/university educators across the United States who are giving young people opportunities to work as inventors. Given the release of this newsletter right before Teacher Appreciation Week, we want to highlight the work of Rachel Thibault as an example of the many dedicated educators advancing invention education. Rachel was the lead teacher for the 2014 SOAR (Students on the Academic Rise) High School InvenTeam, located in Lancaster, Calif., where she continues implementing the program at her high school (an early college high school on a community college campus). We recently caught up with Thibault to find out what happened after the school’s InvenTeam grant ended.

2017 LEMELSON-MIT STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS: LEADING ‘EARLY Career’ Inventors making a difference in People’s lives
Nine collegiate inventors across the country consisting of five individual graduate students and four undergraduate teams won the 2017 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for their ingenious inventions. Click the link above to learn more about these students and their inventions.

Applications for 2018 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize and nominations for the 2018 Lemelson-MIT $500k Prize for mid-career inventors are being accepted between now and the fall of 2017 on our website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION PENDING FOR NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS
The National Academy of Inventors is seeking formal recognition in the form of a federal charter via legislation pending in Congress.

VALUE OF FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH DOCUMENTED THROUGH LINKAGES BETWEEN NIH GRANTS AND PATENT ACTIVITY
MIT Sloan School of Management Professor Pierre Azoulay and his colleagues reviewed over 365,000 U.S. National Institutes of Health research grants over 27 years and found that 31 percent produced articles that were later cited by patents in the biomedical sector and over 8 percent generated a patent directly. There was no significant difference between “basic” or “applied” research grants in terms of the frequency with which those projects helped generate patents.
2017 NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS (NAI) ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Presentations at the 2017 NAI Annual conference held in Boston April 5-7, 2017 are now available online. Presentation topics include invention education, changing the culture to recognize patents, licensing and commercialization toward tenure and merit, innovative approaches to university-industry collaboration and impacting society through invention and entrepreneurship.

TRACING INVENTORS’ IMPACT THROUGH PATENT MAPS
The Lemelson-MIT Program has benefited from patent maps created by Ipvision for our $500K Lemelson-MIT Prize winners. Patent maps show the range of fields that an inventor has influenced and the degree to which his or her work has impacted different fields. They show the depth and breadth of an inventors’ impact. Ipvision started by conducting a special patent analysis of the most interesting and important patents that range from the Starbucks coffee cup sleeve to MIT Institute Professor Robert Langer’s fascinating patent portfolio.

GRANT FOR INVENTION & INNOVATION AVAILABLE VIA VENTUREWELL
VentureWell is seeking proposals for Spring 2017 faculty grants. Two new focus areas will support the emerging generation of inventors and innovators and the innovation and entrepreneur ecosystems critical to their success. Proposals are due May 24.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING YOUNG INVENTORS AT EUREKAFEST 2017
Join the Lemelson-MIT Program’s free day-long public celebration of teams of high school student inventors from 15 sites (i.e. InvenTeams) and nine college students from across the United States who rose to the top in a national competition for their inventiveness. InvenTeams and college Student Prize winners will present and showcase prototypes of their inventions at EurekaFest on Friday, June 16, 2017 at MIT.