October 25, 2018

Dear <<First Name>>,

The fall is a time in which we pause a minute to give thanks for bountiful harvests. The Lemelson-MIT Program has a lot to celebrate. We announced Luis von Ahn as the 2018 winner of the $500K Lemelson-MIT Prize in September. Thanks to his passion for inspiring more young people to invent, he agreed to be the keynote speaker at CSForALL where a special announcement was revealed after his speech. Please read more about it below.

We partnered with the California Community Colleges, the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) on a conference to explore innovation pathways that combine making, inventing and entrepreneurship. Over 200 community college leaders participated.

This month we also announced the 15 new high school teams from across the country who received InvenTeam grants to create technological solutions to real-world problems the students found in their local communities. Thank you to our InvenTeam judges who took time out of their busy schedules this fall to select these incredible teams.

We also launched an interactive online community to help educators around the world learn about the different ways of supporting young people in their work as inventors through our new web portal called LemelsonX. Read more about this free online community for invention educators in this issue of Invention Education eNews.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Couch, PhD
Executive Director
Lemelson-MIT Program
INVENTION EDUCATION OFFICER LEADS CHEMISTRY ACTIVITY FOR GE GIRLS AT MIT

Rising seventh grade girls from Lynn Public Schools spent a week in the summer at the MIT Edgerton Center in a program funded by General Electric to increase girls interest in STEM. The girls learned how to design sailboats, solder electrical connections, construct LEGO cars, track infectious zombie plagues among other fun STEM activities. One of the chemistry activities involved comparing physical attributes of all nail polishes and their application taught by our own STEM champion and former product developer, Invention Education Officer, Leigh Estabrooks.

INVENTEAM GRANTS ANNOUNCED AND 2019-2020 APPLICATIONS OPEN

Fifteen InvenTeams each receiving up to $10,000 in grant funding to solve problems they’ve recognized in their local communities were announced on Wednesday, October 24. Some of this year’s projects include the invention of a danger alert system for schools, personal safety monitor to prevent injuries and fatalities for workers and rescuers in confined spaces, and a vital sign monitoring system for firefighters to prevent the risk of overexertion during fire rescues. Applications are now open for educators who want a chance to win an Excite Award in the spring to travel to MIT in the summer to experience EurekaFest and learn first-hand what it takes to be an InvenTeam educator.

LAUNCH OF LEMELSONX – NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY FOR EDUCATORS

MICROSOFT #MAKEWHATSNEXT
We are excited about the launch of our online community for teachers across the world who want to learn and collaborate with others who are undertaking invention projects in their classrooms, camps or afterschool programs. The great work of teachers allows students’ creativity and inventiveness to shine. Taking on an invention project is never easy and requires the support of a network. Sign up now or take a look around.

2018 LEMELSON-MIT PRIZE WINNER FEATURED ON NEW INVENTOR CARD

Luis von Ahn was a keynote speaker at this month’s CSforALL conference and spoke about his journey into computer science and motivation behind his inventions. He’s also the newest inventor featured on the USPTO inventor collectible card series which was announced at the conference. Von Ahn is the fourth Lemelson-MIT award winner to be featured on the inventor collectible cards.

PATENT PROGRAM SELECTS TWO INVENTEAMS

Microsoft #MakeWhatsNext Patent Program accepted female inventors on the 2017 Garey High School InvenTeam and Northeast High School InvenTeam. They will receive pro-bono support from Microsoft’s patent lawyers, along with mentorship to support the complex and lengthy patent process. The #MakeWhatsNext program celebrates the accomplishments of female inventors while working to close the patent gender gap. Last year, the program accepted two all-girls InvenTeams from Poolsville Maryland, and Stockbridge, Michigan, and all female Student Prize team winner, Tactile. We couldn’t be more excited for these female inventors and the support from Microsoft.

HOW INVENTION UPLIFTED AND CHANGED THE COURSE OF STUDENTS AND THEIR COMMUNITY

It was the end of the school year at Garey High School, one of four high schools in California’s Pomona Unified School District, when Science Department Chair Antonio Gamboa received an email about the Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam initiative. He read the message aloud to the three students hanging out in his classroom and was about to hit “delete” when Evelyn Casas one student said, “I want to invent something.” Gamboa had received the email invitation the prior year as well but felt he didn’t have the time to mentor an InvenTeam. He asked Evelyn to look over the email and figure out what was needed. By the end of the day, he received a
INNOVATION AT GO WEST IN CALIFORNIA

More than 200 community colleges, educators and entrepreneur catalysts attended the Go West conference hosted by Lemelson-MIT, the National Association of Community College Entrepreneurship and Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy. The group explored synergies and ways to develop linkages between inventing, and entrepreneurship offerings by high schools and two and four-year colleges. Survey feedback from attendees was overwhelming positive with attendees wanting to attend a conference devoted to this topic again in the future. Check out the photos from the event.

CALLING ALL CURIOUS INVENTORS

PatentPandas.org is a friendly resource for learning about patents through comics (the patent pandas!) and true stories from real inventors. This website comes from inventors who have had patent misadventures who wish to share their stories, so that others can also learn from the experiences. They are currently collecting questions to find out what inventors like you are most curious about. They will then do their best to answer these questions through Patentpandas.org. Please click the link to submit your questions! Patentpandas.org is created in collaboration with the Harvard Cyberlaw Clinic.

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