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Horizon Science Academy Cleveland High School Only Ohio School to Receive \$10,000 MIT Grant for Class Invention

Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam Initiative Inspires a New Generation of Inventors

Cleveland, Ohio, October 28, 2016 — [Horizon Science Academy Cleveland High School](http://www.horizoncleveland.org) was recently awarded a [Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam](http://www.mit.edu/inventeam) grant in the amount of \$10,000 to create their Scorpion Roof Rack Lift, a device to lift a kayak on to a standard car carrier. Horizon Science Academy Cleveland High School is one of 15 high schools nationwide, and the only Ohio school, to be selected as an InvenTeam this year.

InvenTeams are teams of high school students, teachers and mentors that receive grants up to \$10,000 to invent technological solutions to real-world problems. This initiative of the Lemelson-MIT Program aims to inspire a new generation of inventors.

“The InvenTeams program represents the future,” said Leigh Estabrooks, invention education officer from the Lemelson-MIT Program. “We place an emphasis on STEM-focused projects to develop interest in these fields among youth. With InvenTeams, our primary goal is to foster high school students’ passion for invention, in turn inspiring them to consider careers in science, technology, engineering or math.”

Scott Girard, Science teacher at Horizon Science Academy (HSA) Cleveland High School, initiated the InvenTeam application process and attended training at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to help prepare the final proposal. A prestigious panel of judges composed of educators, researchers, staff and alumni from MIT, as well as representatives from the industry and former Lemelson-MIT Award winners, assembled this fall and selected Horizon Science Academy Cleveland High School as one of this year’s InvenTeam grantees.

The idea for the lift occurred when students were studying Lake Erie water quality and they helped a disabled veteran having trouble putting his kayak on his car. He injured his arm in Desert Storm, which made getting his equipment for the outdoor activities he enjoyed on his vehicle more difficult. The students want to enable people with physical disabilities to continue enjoying the outdoors, by removing a barrier that could prevent them from doing so.

“The team is excited and looking forward to presenting the device at EurekaFest this June,” Girard said. “We’re hoping this helps a lot of people with physical challenges to continue their favorite activities and makes their lives a bit easier.”

“This is a perfect example of how science and mathematics are put into real life. HSA Cleveland High students are already helping their community with what they learned in the classroom. I cannot wait to see what these students will accomplish in the future,” added Principal Gurbuz.

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Over the next nine months, the Horizon Science Academy Cleveland High School InvenTeam will develop its “Scorpion Roof Rack Lift.” In June, the students will showcase a prototype of their invention at EurekaFest at MIT in Cambridge, Mass. EurekaFest, presented by the Lemelson-MIT Program, is a multi-day celebration designed to empower a legacy of inventors through activities that inspire youth, honor role models and encourage creativity and problem solving.

Many students on the team are part of the **Concept Youth Scholars Program (CYSP)** as well as the Scientific Research and Design class. CYSP is a program designed to focus on academics, a healthy lifestyle, building confidence, volunteerism, exploration and activities designed to help students make the most of their educational experience.

Students on the InvenTEAM are: Femi Ademuyiwa (11), Heaven Brown (10), Mehmet Fesli (10), Christopher Harris (10), Adriana McCord (10), Sharmaine Morton (10), Derrick Patterson (10), Kya Poindexter (10), Carla Spearman (10), and Glen Weber, Jr. (10), Dezany Clay (9), Umami Coats (9), Dasia Johnson (9), Jayla Vanhorn (9).

HSA Cleveland High School serves an urban community and is composed primarily of minority and economically disadvantaged students. [Concept Schools](#) is a charter school management organization that manages or operates 30 public charter schools throughout the Midwest. HSA Cleveland High college-prep curriculum is STEM-based, and like any other public school, each school in the Concept network is highly regulated and overseen by their respective school districts and charter authorizers. Schools within the Concept Network are continuously recognized for their excellence in education.

ABOUT THE LEMELSON-MIT PROGRAM

Celebrating invention, inspiring youth

The Lemelson-MIT Program celebrates outstanding inventors and inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through invention.

Jerome H. Lemelson, one of U.S. history’s most prolific inventors, and his wife Dorothy founded the Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994. It is funded by The Lemelson Foundation and administered by the School of Engineering at MIT, an institution with a strong ongoing commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for K-12 STEM education.

ABOUT THE LEMELSON FOUNDATION

The Lemelson Foundation uses the power of invention to improve lives, by inspiring and enabling the next generation of inventors and invention based enterprises to promote economic growth in the US and social and economic progress for the poor in developing countries. Established by prolific US inventor Jerome Lemelson and his wife Dorothy in 1992, to date the Foundation has provided or committed more than \$175 million in grants and PRIs in support of its mission. For more information, visit <http://lemelson.org>.

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