

Lemelson-MIT Program

The [Lemelson-MIT Program](#) (LMIT) continued along its programmatic trajectory in fiscal year 2016 of celebrating outstanding inventors and inspiring youth through its awards, invention education, and communications activities. The program continued to implement a revised awards program and to refine its thinking about distinct audiences for all invention education activities and EurekaFest. These efforts were informed by an evaluation project—undertaken in 2013, the first year of the current Lemelson Foundation grant period—and subsequent discussions with the Lemelson Foundation and stakeholders.

Noteworthy outcomes for the 2016 fiscal year include:

- The first winner in alternative energy technologies for the [\\$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize](#)
- Continued partnership with [MIT Technology Review](#) to celebrate the Lemelson-MIT Prize winner
- A more competitive and diverse applicant pool in the national student prize competition for graduate and undergraduate students
- Annual invitations to the White House Science Fair to InvenTeams
- An alumni InvenTeams survey
- Introduction and expansion of the Junior Varsity (JV) InvenTeams pilot to four states and 37 teams
- Continued success in total media impressions and earned value for communications efforts to recognize outstanding inventors and inspire youth through media coverage
- Continued recognition for InvenTeams from elected officials through community engagement efforts

Further details and LMIT's goals and accomplishments are described below.

Recognizing Outstanding Inventors

LMIT's activities to recognize outstanding inventors and inspire youth to lead creative lives through invention include two annual awards: the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize and the [Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Competition](#).

LMIT strives to increase the number and diversity of high-quality nominations for the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize. Goals in fiscal year 2016 included having 15 new nominations and two new competitive nominees from groups that are underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. The nomination pool resulted in a total of 21 nominations, 12 new nominations, 17 from academia, and four from the private sector, with two female nominees who placed in the top 10.

The screening committee—comprising MIT alumni, faculty, and members of the no-longer-awarded Lemelson-MIT Award for Global Innovation (to provide global perspective)—reviewed the 21 nominations and identified four finalists who advanced to the national jury. LMIT’s national awards jury of influence makers from the scientific, entrepreneurial/venture capital, and media industries met and selected the winner of the 2015 \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize in mid-May. The winner, [Dr. Jay Whitacre](#), inventor of the nontoxic energy storage medium, the Aquion hybrid ion battery, was announced in early September, and was celebrated at the Emerging Technologies Conference 2015 (EmTech 2015).

Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Competition

Based on the 2013 Monitor Institute evaluation, LMIT decided to forgo expansion of the campus-based student prize. Instead, LMIT launched a national, category-based student prize competition open to both graduate students and teams of undergraduate students. To help communicate the connection between invention and the economy, themes were selected on the basis of their significance to the US economy. Non-monetary prize incentives include prestige; communication and media training; networking opportunities with other inventive students and with judges, past winners, and the Lemelson network overall; and a push for significant media coverage to bolster the winner’s trajectory. The national student prize program grew from two categories—“Cure It!” and “Use It!”—in FY2014 to four categories—adding “Eat It!” and “Drive It!” in FY2015. All four categories were retained for FY2016.

LMIT surpassed its previous Student Prize Competition recruiting milestone of 102 applications with 193 applications—the highest number to date. LMIT came in just under its category goal of 10 “Eat It!” graduate applications (receiving six applications). LMIT expected the increase in quality and quantity of applications to result in the awarding of eight prizes, but only seven prizes were awarded in 2016 because the “Drive It!” screening committee chose not to advance an undergraduate team to the finals. The 2016 application numbers increased dramatically from the two previous years of the national Lemelson-MIT Student Prize due to a rigorous applicant recruitment effort that depended on both passive (paid advertising opportunities for awareness building) and active (direct-to-student outreach) recruiting.

Screening committees were formed to select graduate student and undergraduate student team finalists in the competition’s four categories. These committees included experienced screeners from the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize and experts in health technology, consumer products, transportation, and food and agriculture. Finalists submitted videos of their inventive work along with letters of support. The same national jury that selected the winner of the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize then reviewed and selected the winners of the four \$15,000 graduate prizes and three \$10,000 undergraduate student team prizes. Three of the seven winners the jury selected were from MIT.

The seven [winners of the 2016 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize](#)—Catalin Voss (Stanford University, graduate, “Cure It!”), Columbia University’s Kinnos, Inc.—Jason Kang, Katherine Jin, and Kevin Tyan (undergraduate team, “Cure It!”), Dan Dorsch (MIT, graduate, “Drive It!”), Heather Hava (University of Colorado Boulder, graduate, “Eat

It!"), MIT's Spyce (undergraduate team, "Eat It!"), Achuta Kadambi (MIT, graduate, "Use It!"), and the University of Washington's SignAloud (undergraduate team "Use It!") were announced through a national press release and in coordination with their respective schools on April 12. LMIT celebrated the winners of the 2016 Student Prize Competition at EurekaFest, held on June 17–18 at MIT.

Inspiring Youth

LMIT's activities to inspire youth to lead creative lives through invention include invention education, InvenTeams, JV InvenTeams, community engagement, and EurekaFest.

Invention Education

A majority of LMIT's invention education activities consists of collaborations with national youth development organizations, including the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, and 4-H, to promote inventive thinking and doing. This is an arena in which LMIT pursues new ideas and opportunities and engages with the MIT K–12 STEM community.

Accomplishments for invention education included a sixth invitation to the White House Science Fair for InvenTeams, encouraging more Boy Scouts to earn the Inventing merit badge (that LMIT introduced in 2010), and developing new, inspiring invention-education content, including an interactive invention game named Invention Adventures.

High-school inventors from Baruch College Campus High School in New York, NY, showcased their [Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam](#) project for President Obama at the sixth and final [White House Science Fair](#) of the president's administration on April 13, 2016. They were joined by two former InvenTeam members from Northeast High School in Oakland Park, FL, who spoke on a White House Science Fair alumni panel. The event was the largest White House Science Fair, with more than 130 students from 30 states in attendance, in addition to student alumni from each of the previous five fairs. The event recognized students from a broad range of STEM competitions and organizations. Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam members have been selected to attend the White House Science Fair every year that it has been held since 2010. Media coverage was at more than 17 million impressions via print, online, and social media. National media placements on ABC News online, CNN online, Huffington Post, Education Week, Makezine, Politico, and the US Department of Education blog, as well as LMIT's prominent presence in social media coverage, drove the majority of impressions.

InvenTeams

On October 14, 2015, LMIT announced the selection of 14 2015–2016 InvenTeams, representing 10 US states. The InvenTeams' projects got under way in November, with teams completing research and outreach to beneficiaries and customers. Prototypes were built and iterated from December through late April. InvenTeam finalists are also known as Excite Award Recipients or EARs for short.

The InvenTeam initiative is 12 years old. There have been almost 200 teams and 322 EARs trained at MIT. Two alumni surveys—the first conducted in 2011 and the second in 2015—each garnered more than 300 responses. In both surveys, respondents rated their overall experience at 7.7 on a 9-point scale, with 9 being excellent. InvenTeam alumni gave high overall ratings for the program even several years after the experience. The survey contained questions about skill development and experiences. It used a bipolar Likert scale with a range of 1 (strongly agree) to 5 (strongly disagree). Comparisons of experiences by subgroup that were significant at the .05 level (as determined by *t*-tests for means) indicated that members of underrepresented minority groups and female alumni had different perceptions of their experiences, compared with non-minority and male respondents. Alumni who were members of underrepresented minority groups rated their overall InvenTeam experience significantly higher than the aggregate, at 8.1 on a 9-point scale, and those respondents who attended the capstone event rated the InvenTeam experience the highest of any subgroup, at 8.3 out of 9. The survey results highlighted the fact that alumni from underrepresented minority groups strongly agreed or agreed that InvenTeams was a life-changing activity and offered them a technical way to express creativity. They also learned from failure and to be persistent. Female alumni strongly agreed or agreed that they developed entrepreneurial, professional, and leadership skills, as well as understanding the importance of being inventive.

Junior Varsity InvenTeams

The JV InvenTeams program was expanded to Los Angeles, CA, in FY2016, and Oregon sites were increased to 10, for a total of 37 teams in FY2016. The goal is to grow the initiative from Massachusetts to Texas, Oregon, and California. These geographic regions were selected because they have ecosystems that can support young inventors. The goal is to have 40 teams in total—10 in each geographic region by 2017.

JV InvenTeams have been supported by Stanley Black & Decker, the Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) charter schools in Houston, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers. Since the initiative's inception, there have been 37 JV InvenTeams with approximately 540 students and 68 educators participating. The goal of the Clinton Global Initiative, signed in December 2013 by LMIT, is to reach 400 students and 80 educators. Teams can include up to 20 students plus one or two educators. The first JV InvenTeams in Los Angeles began in spring 2016. One JV InvenTeam, from KIPP Sunnyside High School, has gone through the grant process to become a 2015–2016 InvenTeam. Four current or former JV InvenTeams were Excite Award recipients in 2016. Transition from JV InvenTeam grantee to InvenTeam grantee was a desired outcome identified in Lemelson-MIT's four-year plan submitted to the Lemelson Foundation.

Developing, testing, piloting, and designing unique curricula that are engaging and offer STEM enrichment is a laborious process. LMIT worked with MIT undergraduate students to develop the first four units. However, having MIT students develop these materials was not sustainable. WGBH (Boston's PBS station) was contracted to develop four additional activity guides. This was a laborious and time-consuming process as WGBH subcontracted each guide to different developers of varying skill levels. Immense fact-checking and technical editing efforts were needed throughout the process to produce text documents with supporting imagery that could then be given to a graphic

designer. Currently, the guides are being tested, edited, and designed; then they will join the library of existing activity guides on the Lemelson-MIT website.

Managing the consumable and printed materials shipments for JV InvenTeams activity guides required significant personnel effort, which will only increase with scaling. LMIT identified a custom education kit-building vendor, AquaPhoenix Scientific, that will provide services to help LMIT manage this effort. Beginning in the next fiscal year, Lemelson-MIT will work with AquaPhoenix to offer online ordering of invention kits for grantees and the general public from the Lemelson-MIT website.

Communications

LMIT's communications goal is to increase overall media coverage. Media coverage of each of LMIT's initiatives is discussed below.

Administration

The close of fiscal year 2016 marks the end point in the Lemelson-MIT Program's current grant from the Lemelson Foundation. LMIT developed its proposal for the time beyond FY2016 during FY2015. In the current grant proposal to the Lemelson Foundation, LMIT included a request to change from a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year to a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year—thus, LMIT is proposing an interim grant period of 18 months to be followed by a conventional four-year grant period. LMIT will continue to celebrate, inspire, and educate its target audiences and is excited to undertake this proposal for the 18-month period starting July 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017.

Recognizing Outstanding Inventors

2015 and 2016 \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prizes

Presented to an outstanding mid-career American inventor who is dedicated to improving the world through technological invention, the \$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize is the Lemelson-MIT Program's most prestigious vehicle for creating excitement about invention.

LMIT established a three-year partnership with *MIT Technology Review* to implement the decision to move the annual celebration of the Lemelson-MIT Prize winner to a peer-level event that is distinct from the EurekaFest activity. Dr. Jay Whitacre was lauded on the first night of EmTech 2015, which included a presentation and fireside chat with Jason Pontin, *MIT Technology Review's* editor in chief; remarks from Dorothy Lemelson, founder and co-chair of the Lemelson Foundation; and a celebratory reception. The partnership and event were deemed successful, with more than 800 people in attendance.

Recruiting for the 2016 Lemelson-MIT Prize began with the announcement that Jay Whitacre had won the 2015 prize. It included several underwriting/marketing slots on National Public Radio shows in major markets, online and print advertisements with *MIT Technology Review*, and outreach and email campaigns to LMIT's network. LMIT also encouraged the nomination of mid-career inventors working in global markets—not only those focused on developed world markets—to advance the “mainstreaming”

of invention for the developing world and to highlight that modern invention-based ventures must be global. Fourteen new nominations were received.

The winner, who was selected in early June, will be announced in mid-September 2016 and celebrated in mid-October at EmTech 2016. The celebration will again include a brief presentation, a fireside chat with Jason Pontin, the presentation of the prize, and a reception.

2016 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Competition

The 2016 fiscal year was the third year of the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize Competition, a nationwide search for the most inventive undergraduate and graduate students that was informed by a FY2013 strategic evaluation of LMIT by the Monitor Institute. The national prize builds on the legacy of the Lemelson-MIT Collegiate Student Prize, which served as a springboard for collegiate inventors for nearly 20 years. The Lemelson-MIT Program had awarded a student prize at MIT since 1994; it had awarded additional prizes in collaboration with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign since 2007 and with the California Institute of Technology from 2009 to 2011.

The new competition launched in fall 2013 with two categories: health care (“Cure It!”)—to recognize students’ work in technology-based inventions to improve health care—and consumer products (“Use It!”)—to recognize students’ work in technology-based inventions to improve consumer devices and tools. LMIT added two new categories in FY2015, “Eat It!” for food and agriculture and “Drive It!”

The applicants’ showcase in April during MIT Campus Preview Weekend provided exposure for regional applicants, increased awareness of their work and of the competition, and provided an opportunity for applicants to network with one another. The 2016 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize winners are discussed below.

[Catalin Voss](#), the “Cure It!” graduate winner from Stanford University, is developing an artificial intelligence system for automatic facial expression recognition that runs on wearable glasses and delivers real-time social cues to individuals with autism. The beta device is a combined software and hardware system build on top of Google Glass.

[Jason Kang, Katherine Jin, and Kevin Tyan](#), a team from Columbia University, won the “Cure It!” undergraduate team prize. The team is developing Highlight, a powdered additive for disinfectants that improves decontamination during epidemic outbreaks.

[Dan Dorsch](#), the “Drive It!” graduate winner from MIT, invented the first lightweight clutchless hybrid transmission for cars.

[Heather Hava](#), the “Eat It!” graduate winner from the University of Colorado at Boulder, developed robots that can garden in space and patented a geodesic dome structure for applications here on earth such as disaster relief or sustainable housing.

[Kale Rogers, Michael Farid, Braden Knight, and Luke Schlueter](#), a team from MIT that is creating the world’s first completely automated restaurant, won the “Eat It!” undergraduate team prize.

[Achuta Kadambi](#), the “Use It!” graduate winner from MIT, designs advanced cameras that acquire superhuman imagery. His inventions have applications that span medical imaging, robotic navigation, and virtual reality.

[Thomas Pryor and Navid Azodi](#), a team from the University of Washington, won the “Use It!” undergraduate team prize. They are creating a pair of gloves that have the potential to revolutionize communication for people who cannot speak or hear.

The Lemelson-MIT Student Prize continued to serve as a highlight of LMIT’s recognition activities, with more than 77.6 million media impressions in online outlets such as *Fast Company* and *Scientific American*. Social media played a large influence in the viral and external video views on media sites for Thomas Pryor and Navid Azodi’s “Sign Aloud” invention video, which had more than 20 million views.

Inspiring Youth: Specific Initiatives

Invention Education

LMIT’s Invention Education activities efforts focused on supporting two of the Boy Scouts of America merit badges, Inventing and Sustainability. Nationally, the Inventing merit badge was awarded to 3,369 Boy Scouts in 2015. There have been 14,462 Inventing merit badges awarded through 2015. LMIT also collaborated with GiantOtter to use artificial intelligence to model personality, social interaction, and communication for an interactive game to develop inventive youth was pushed into a soft launch in spring 2016 on the Lemelson-MIT website. More development work is under way before a promotional launch.

Invention Education, through White House Science Fair coverage, received more than 17 million impressions via print, online, broadcast, and social media.

InvenTeams

[InvenTeams](#), LMIT’s premier hands-on invention experience for teams of high-school students, educators, and mentors, continued as a national program in FY2016 with 14 new grants.

LMIT made several programmatic improvements. These included:

- Conducting all InvenTeams site visits earlier than in previous years (and before the end of the calendar year)
- Holding trainings in communications/public relations and “Finance 101” using Adobe Connect and video-conferencing with the teams
- Supporting invention education master teachers to attend site visits/mid-grant technical reviews for InvenTeams
- Requiring teams to hold mid-grant technical progress reviews open to their respective communities

- Establishing a team blog as the monthly report medium (the blogs feed into LMIT's website)
- Conducting an InvenTeam Alumni survey; respondents rated their overall InvenTeam experience at 7.7 on a 9-point scale, with 9 being excellent.

Media coverage of the FY2016 InvenTeams announcement amounted to more than 3.5 million impressions, including online articles, social media, and regional broadcasts. National media placements appeared on Discovery.com, PhilanthropyNewsDigest.org, WomenYouShouldKnow.net, and WashingtonPost.com.

Junior Varsity InvenTeams

JV InvenTeams, LMIT's hands-on/minds-on invention experience for students in grades 7 through 10 and their educators at low-resourced schools continued to expand during its second year, adding schools in Los Angeles. The 37 JV InvenTeams from 27 schools in California, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Texas included the following.

California JV InvenTeams

- Boys & Girls Club of Carson at King Drew Medical Magnet High School (Los Angeles)
- Boys & Girls Club of Carson at Alain Leroy Locke College Preparatory Academy (Los Angeles)
- Downtown Magnets High School (Los Angeles)
- JetSpace at Alain Leroy Locke College Preparatory Academy (Los Angeles; two teams)
- Knight Preparatory Academy (Palmdale)
- SOAR Preparatory Academy (Lancaster)
- West Valley Boys & Girls Club at Canoga Park High School (Canoga Park)

Massachusetts JV InvenTeams

- 21st Century Baystate Springfield Educational Partnership at Roger L. Putnam Vocational Technical Academy (Springfield)
- Alfred G. Zanetti Montessori Magnet School (Springfield)
- Chelsea High School (Chelsea)
- Expanding Horizons: Salem Public Schools and LEAP for Education (Salem)
- Lowell High School (Lowell)
- Pittsfield High School, in partnership with the Berkshire Museum (Pittsfield)
- Monument Valley Middle School, in partnership with the Berkshire Museum (Great Barrington)
- The English High School (Jamaica Plain)
- Wareham Middle School (Wareham)

Oregon JV InvenTeams

- Dayton High School (Dayton; six teams)
- Oregon City Service Learning Academy (Oregon City; four teams)
- ScienceWorks Museum/Ashland Middle School (Ashland)
- Siuslaw High School (Florence; two teams)

Texas JV InvenTeams

- Energy Institute High School (Houston)
- KIPP Generations Collegiate High School (Houston)
- KIPP Houston High School (Houston)
- Paul Revere Middle School (Houston)
- Sharpstown International School (Houston)
- Waller High School (Waller)
- Yes Prep Brays Oaks (Houston)

Lemelson-MIT announced the expansion of JV InvenTeams into California schools in a press release during National Engineering Week in February. The announcement also publicized the availability of JV InvenTeam activity guides, which any educator can download free from the Lemelson-MIT website. JV InvenTeams in each geographic location were offered a campus connection—a unique opportunity to visit a college campus. Massachusetts teams had the opportunity to visit MIT, California JV InvenTeams visited Antelope Valley College, Oregon JV InvenTeams visited Portland State University, and Texas JV InvenTeams visited the University of Houston. More than 202,816 impressions were garnered from the announcement. National placements appeared on News.MIT.edu, NSTA Reports (in print and online), TeachersTech.net, TheAntelopeValleyPress.com, Tech&Learning.com, and THEJournal.com

Editing, testing, and design work continued for the new invention activity guides for the JV InvenTeams curriculum that were developed by WGBH. The release date for the free activity guides and invention kits available for purchase on the website is planned for August 31, 2016.

Community Engagement

Lemelson-MIT started a community engagement campaign in 2011 with the goal of creating awareness among political and community leaders about the InvenTeams projects happening in their community and the support needed from the community to sustain the projects throughout the school year and beyond. The success of this campaign depends on consistent outreach on an ongoing basis. LMIT sends a letter to political leaders at the start of the InvenTeam grant period. Participating schools receive a “certificate of appreciation” citation from political leaders in response to LMIT’s letters. This recognition helps excite and encourage InvenTeams. New this year, a list of local officials and supporting mentors and local organizations was included in the final grant application for InvenTeams.

Community engagement efforts for this year focused on letter and email campaigns for InvenTeams and JV InvenTeams. The letter and email campaign for InvenTeams was executed in late January in the hope that the letters would arrive on the desks of elected officials in time for National Inventors Day in February. Elected and school officials in each InvenTeam community received a letter from LMIT that encouraged recognition of the team. Emails were sent to school administrators and to the supporting local companies that were listed in the InvenTeam grantee's application. LMIT sent 183 letters and 150 emails to elected officials and school administrators in InvenTeams communities. A second letter and email campaign, executed in late March, was directed at the top revenue businesses in the local communities that have both JV InvenTeams and InvenTeams (Texas, California, Massachusetts, and Oregon). This was the first time LMIT launched such a campaign. LMIT continued to receive recognition and support from elected officials in the InvenTeam communities.

- Mayor Sylvester Turner of Houston proclaimed March 29, 2016, at KIPP Sunnyside High School to be "InvenTeam Day" in the city of Houston. Other community activities for the KIPP Sunnyside High School InvenTeam included:

The team's invention was presented to the City Council.

Mayor Turner visited the school and the team received a citation from Governor Greg Abbott.

Councilwoman Amanda Edwards, maintenance manager for the City of Houston's Department of Public Works and Engineering, and the Harris County supervisor of concrete restoration attended the team's mid-grant technical review, leading to an invitation to present their invention to the City Council.

- The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California attended the mid-grant technical review at the Archer School for Girls; the team was invited to present at the Spring Green Expo in downtown Los Angeles. The Archer School team is the first high-school group ever invited to present there.
- Congressman Mike Bishop of Michigan recognized the Stockbridge High School InvenTeam in a letter that the educator, Bob Richards, tweeted.
- The lieutenant governor of Michigan recorded remarks for the Williamston High School InvenTeams mid-grant technical review event.

EurekaFest 2016

LMIT held its tenth annual EurekaFest event June 17–18. EurekaFest focuses on InvenTeams and the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize winners.

EurekaFest is a multi-day celebration designed to establish a tradition of invention through activities that inspire youth, honor role models, and encourage creativity and problem solving. The celebration has two major components: a series of events held at MIT over two days that serve as a capstone for InvenTeams students and as training for prospective InvenTeams educators; and a celebration of the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize winners. The two days include an all-day design challenge and public

engagement event. LMIT's faculty director, Professor Michael Cima, presided over the awards ceremony. Carol Dahl, executive director of the Lemelson Foundation, attended EurekaFest and spoke on behalf of the foundation.

LMIT continued its partnership with Boston's Museum of Science on an iteration of last year's "Duck 'n Hover" design challenge, in which high-school students from across the country designed and built a wind-powered device that could hover three stories in the air while carrying rubber ducks as payload. The devices were built in the morning on the MIT campus and displayed in the afternoon at the Museum of Science. Students from the Science Club for Girls and the Museum of Science participated in EurekaFest along with InvenTeam students.

Lemelson-MIT Student Prize winners were presenters and critiqued InvenTeams' presentations. Excite Award recipients (finalists for InvenTeams grants) participated in active learning workshops on tools, electronics, and the invention process. They were also able to learn about the InvenTeams experience from teachers and students. Surveys were conducted at the end of the event to collect information on students' and educators' experiences.

LMIT marketed EurekaFest in local events calendars, letters to local businesses, on-campus promotions intended to reach the broader MIT community, and large bus-stop posters around MIT and Kendall Square that featured MIT winners of the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize.

EurekaFest garnered more than 4.9 million media impressions, including on social media, and many prominent listings of the gathering's events, including in the *Boston Globe*.

Finances and Funding

Fiscal year 2016 was the last year of the current, four-year funding cycle with the Lemelson Foundation. The majority of LMIT's annual expenses occur at the end of the fiscal year, in late May and June. This poses both a financial and strategic planning challenge—LMIT does not have adequate time to adapt or reallocate resources and often must accrue expenses into the following fiscal year. The current reporting requirements of the Lemelson Foundation straddle fiscal years. LMIT has requested to adjust its fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) to January 1 to December 31 for the upcoming grant period; the reporting requirement schedule is in discussion. A six-month extension (July 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016) at the beginning of the four-year grant period would sync the fiscal year with the calendar year. LMIT will add one full-time employee to provide programmatic and administrative support for the increased workload, bringing the program's total to nine full-time employees plus one faculty director: three invention education staff members, two communications staff members, one awards staff member, and four administrative/management staff members.

LMIT requested a total budget of \$4,621,757 from the Lemelson Foundation to fund activities from July 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

Future Plans

The Lemelson-MIT Program plans to:

- Undertake new grant proposals to the Lemelson Foundation for the 18-month period starting July 1, 2016, through December 31, 2017
- Push to increase female representation in InvenTeams, both through outreach to more girls' schools and in invention education outreach overall, and through renewed efforts to engage with the Girl Scouts of America
- Identify partners for the expansion of JV InvenTeams and explore scaling models to broaden LMIT's reach beyond direct grantees that level out at 40 grantees per year; JV information technology objectives also include building the number of schools using the JV information technology curriculum without LMIT direct support
- Further refine the annual awards program with a continuing emphasis on obtaining nominations of women and members of groups that are underrepresented in STEM fields
- Cultivate additional sources of funding
- Strengthen community engagement activity by working more closely with InvenTeams and school districts to gather information on the impact of the teams' efforts

Personnel Changes

LMIT experienced significant personnel changes in FY2016. Kerri Mills, finance and events coordinator, left the program in October 2015. Executive Director Joshua Schuler left the program on January 1, 2016, and Steven Rinaldi, finance and program assistant, left the program at the end of April. Betsy Boyle joined LMIT in January as finance and administration manager.

The executive director search was a major focus for the new year with a goal of having the position filled by July 1, 2016. After a nationwide search, [Stephanie Couch](#) was announced as the new executive director on May 24. She will start with LMIT on July 11, 2016.

Student workers and temporary hires have helped execute finance and administration work for the program during the ongoing hiring process. In addition, a search is being undertaken for a new full-time program assistant position to support the awards program and community engagement efforts.

Joshua Schuler
Executive Director