

The Lemelson-MIT Program Overview

One of America's most prolific inventors, Jerome H. Lemelson (1923-1997), and his wife, Dorothy, established the Lemelson-MIT Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1994. Administered by MIT's School of Engineering, the program recognizes outstanding inventors, encourages sustainable new solutions to real-world problems, and enables and inspires young people to pursue creative lives and careers through invention.

Awards and Grants

The **\$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize** honors outstanding mid-career inventors who have developed a patented product or process of significant value to society, which could be or has been adopted for practical use.

The **\$100,000 Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability** celebrates inventors whose innovations enhance economic opportunity and community well-being in developing and/or developed countries, while protecting and restoring the natural environment.

The **\$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize** recognizes MIT seniors or graduate students who demonstrate remarkable inventiveness.

Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams is a national grants initiative to inspire a new generation of inventors by awarding up to \$10,000 each to teams of high school students, teachers, and mentors to develop an invention that addresses a problem they have identified. (web.mit.edu/inventteams/)

Funded Partners

Student Prizes: The Lemelson-MIT Program funds two additional student prizes that recognize outstanding students who demonstrate remarkable inventiveness: the **\$30,000 Lemelson-Rensselaer Student Prize** at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the **\$30,000 Lemelson-Illinois Student Prize** at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

MIT IDEAS Competition: This competition provides seed money and support for teams to develop and implement innovations that make positive changes in the world. The Lemelson-MIT Program sponsors \$10,000 in awards for technology projects that benefit communities in developing countries.

2.009 Product Engineering Processes: In this MIT course, students work in large teams to build working alpha prototypes of new products they have designed. The Lemelson-MIT Program provides funds for team project budgets and resources for students to participate in hands-on learning experiences.

International Development Initiative (IDI): IDI creates opportunities to improve lives in developing regions through its collaborative design approach, which enables MIT faculty and students to share their technical expertise, skills, and problem-solving abilities with under-served communities. The Lemelson-MIT Program supports international development classes (D-Lab) and associated field trips.

Public Education, Awareness, and Outreach

- ***EurekaFest***
A multi-day celebration designed to empower a legacy of inventors through activities that inspire youth, honor role models, and encourage creativity and problem
- ***Lemelson-MIT Program Web site, web.mit.edu/invent/***
A comprehensive online clearinghouse for information about inventors and resources on invention, featuring the Invention Dimension segment that includes the *Inventor of the Week* profiles of inventors' lives and the *Inventor's Handbook*, a guide to the invention process
- ***Ideas Forward***
A biannual e-newsletter that features award winners and highlights activities and upcoming opportunities for the inventive community
- ***INVENTION: Enhancing inventiveness for quality of life, competitiveness, and sustainability***
A report by the Committee for Study of Invention, also sponsored by the National Science Foundation
- ***Inventing Modern America: From the Microwave to the Mouse***
A book that profiles the life and work of 35 American inventors who helped shape the modern world (www.inventingmodernamerica.com/)

The Lemelson Foundation (www.lemelson.org/), a private philanthropy that celebrates and supports inventors and entrepreneurs in order to strengthen social and economic life in the United States and developing countries, funds the Lemelson-MIT Program. For more information, please visit web.mit.edu/invent/ or call (617) 253-3352.