

Contact:

Carrie Barnes
Phone: (215) 239-4643
carrie@elisecommunications.com

UPDATED

Collegiate Inventors Take on San Francisco

NCIIA's young innovators will be center stage at the Exploratorium for March Madness for the Mind

San Francisco, Ca.—February 12, 2010—The National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) will host its annual March Madness for the Mind showcase of student innovation in San Francisco on March 27, 2010 from 10:00 to 2 p.m. PST at the Exploratorium® in the Palace of Fine Arts. The event is an opportunity for the nation's top Excellence and Entrepreneurship Teams (E-Teams)—collaborating groups of college students, faculty and industry mentors who have received NCIIA grants—to unveil their inventions to the public, many for the first time. More than fifteen E-Teams will display their state-of-the-art innovations during the exhibition.

The NCIIA works with many of the nation's leading universities and colleges to help E-Teams successfully grow their innovative technologies from concept to commercialization. Student teams attending this year's public event will include:

- **Michigan Technological University's** E-Team, which is developing a new, extra protective football helmet—called an Enhancing Bio-Morphological (EBM) helmet—that will provide extra support against concussions and other brain injuries commonly sustained by football players.
- AYZH, Inc., a team from **Colorado State University** under the direction of respected “BoPreneur” Paul Hudnut. AYZH is bringing low-cost, high-quality products to the developing world to help improve rural women's standards of living. AYZH has already developed a birth kit meant to help reduce maternal and infant mortality and is now working on an affordable water filtration system, with support from the NCIIA.
- A team from **Stanford University** that is developing a low-cost ventilator for use in developing nations and large-scale disasters. This affordable device, designed for use in the event of a shortage of traditional ventilators, can be used in instances of acute respiratory distress patients in emergency environments.
- Bombyx Technologies, a collaboration with **Cornell University**, which is working on a contact lens-like eye bandage that would relieve pain and enhance healing in patients with eye wounds. The bandage—the first regenerative eye bandage to receive a patent—would heal tissue before dissolving in only a few days.

“As we know, small businesses are important to the growth of the economy: in adverse economic times, small businesses create jobs and stimulate local economies. By putting ideas into action, these students and their enterprises are laying the foundation for a better tomorrow,” said Phil Weilerstein, Executive Director of the NCIIA.

In addition to the March 27 public event, *Inventors Digest*, the nation's longest-running publication for the inventing culture, has partnered this year with NCIIA to host a video competition between participating E-Teams. Beginning February 26, the public will be able to vote on their favorite video in

advance of March Madness for the Mind on the *Inventors Digest* Web site (<http://www.inventorsdigest.com/>), and winners will be announced at the event.

Programming for the NCIIA's 14th Annual Conference brings the country's leading engineering, science and business faculty together for three days of workshops, events and featured speakers—including a keynote presented by Doug Richard, founder of the School for Startups. Perhaps best known from his two-season stint on British television series *Dragon's Den*, Richard has been supporting entrepreneurship in technology and software ventures for over twenty years. In addition to the conference, the Venture Well Forum, an initiative of NCIIA intended to connect student teams with investors and advisors, will be held on March 24, 2010 at the San Francisco Hilton Financial District.

About the NCIIA

The NCIIA achieves positive and sustainable social and environmental impact through technological innovation by providing end-to-end service grants, mentoring and other experiential resources to higher education institutions. With support from The Lemelson Foundation, the National Science Foundation and a membership of nearly 200 colleges and universities from all over the United States, the NCIIA engages more than 5,000 student entrepreneurs each year, leveraging their respective campuses as working laboratories and incubators for businesses and ultimately helping them to bring their concepts to commercialization. For more information, please visit <http://www.nciia.org>.

About the Lemelson Foundation

Established in 1993 by Jerome Lemelson, one of America's most prolific inventors, The Lemelson Foundation uses its resources to inspire, encourage and recognize inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs to support invention-led economic, social and environmentally sustainable development. It has donated or committed more than \$150 million in support of its mission to improve lives through invention in the U.S. and developing countries. For more information, please visit <http://www.lemelson.org>.

###

Approximately 100 patent applications have resulted from projects supported by NCIIA grants, which have also helped create 75 new businesses, including many in New England. These companies manufacture and sell products in many industries—wireless technology, medical devices, alternative energy, construction, safety and transport.