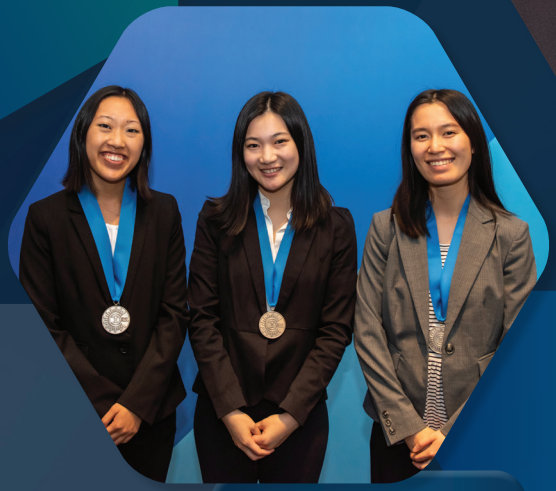
National Inventors Hall of Fame®

HONOR











INSPIRE

CHALLENGE



“For more than 50 years, the National Inventors Hall of Fame® has been at the forefront of illuminating the legacies of world-changing inventors and providing opportunities for the next generation to learn directly from these innovative role models. We know that every child can invent. By providing them with creative, hands-on learning opportunities and intellectual property knowledge, we can help them realize their potential. We can guide them to become the resilient creators, innovators and entrepreneurs our world needs. With the involvement of our Inductees and the generous support of our partners, the Hall of Fame will carry this mission into the future, so that the world built by today’s innovators will advance in the capable hands of tomorrow’s innovators.”

Michael J. Oister
Chief Executive Officer,
National Inventors Hall of Fame



Front cover from left to right: *Collegiate Inventors Competition Winners, children at Camp Invention, NIHF Inductee Marian Croak, Inductee Robert Bryant*

OUR MISSION

From scientific discoveries that have saved lives to technological advances that make life better, America’s history is filled with diverse stories of ingenuity and invention. Together, we will ensure our future is even brighter.

At the National Inventors Hall of Fame, we honor the past while investing in the future. Redefining what a Hall of Fame can be and do, we reach beyond our museum to empower aspiring creators, innovators and entrepreneurs across the country.

Everything we do — from Induction events to invention education programs to inspiring competitions — is fueled by our mission: **to recognize inventors, promote creativity, and advance the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.**





Inductee Iver Anderson, inventor of lead-free solder, making a visit to Camp Invention.

MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF INSPIRATION AND IMPACT

HONORING THE GREATEST INNOVATORS SINCE 1973





ONE INDUCTEE, Thomas Edison, honored at the **FIRST INDUCTION CEREMONY**



624 INDUCTEES HONORED SO FAR

Founded in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Hall of Fame celebrates world-changing U.S. patent holders and connects them with the next generation.

THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME was founded in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to celebrate world-changing U.S. patent holders and connect them with the next generation.



With the support of our Inductees and philanthropic partners, the Hall of Fame has become a driving force in innovation.

CHALLENGING EMERGING INNOVATORS SINCE 1990



547 STUDENTS HAVE REACHED THE FINALIST ROUND

THE COLLEGIATE INVENTORS COMPETITION® rewards the nation's most creative college students and provides opportunities to gain feedback from Hall of Fame Inductees and intellectual property experts.

INSPIRING YOUNG INNOVATORS SINCE 1990



WITH THE LAUNCH OF CAMP INVENTION®, The National Inventors Hall of Fame became a leader in invention education. This nationwide K-6 summer camp builds an innovative mindset and skills through hands-on, problem-solving fun.

As we look back with pride, we move forward with determination.

WELCOMING VISITORS AT THE USPTO SINCE 2008



THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME MUSEUM IS THE NATIONAL MONUMENT TO INNOVATION® Since moving to the USPTO campus, the museum has inspired visitors by sharing the ongoing story of American ingenuity.

MORE THAN 2 MILLION CHILDREN IMPACTED BY HALL OF FAME EDUCATION PROGRAMS SINCE 1990



ADVANCING INVENTION EDUCATION TODAY

With hands-on, equitable education programs for preschool on, the Hall of Fame is reaching more children than ever before! Each program sparks creativity through empowering, confidence-boosting experiences.



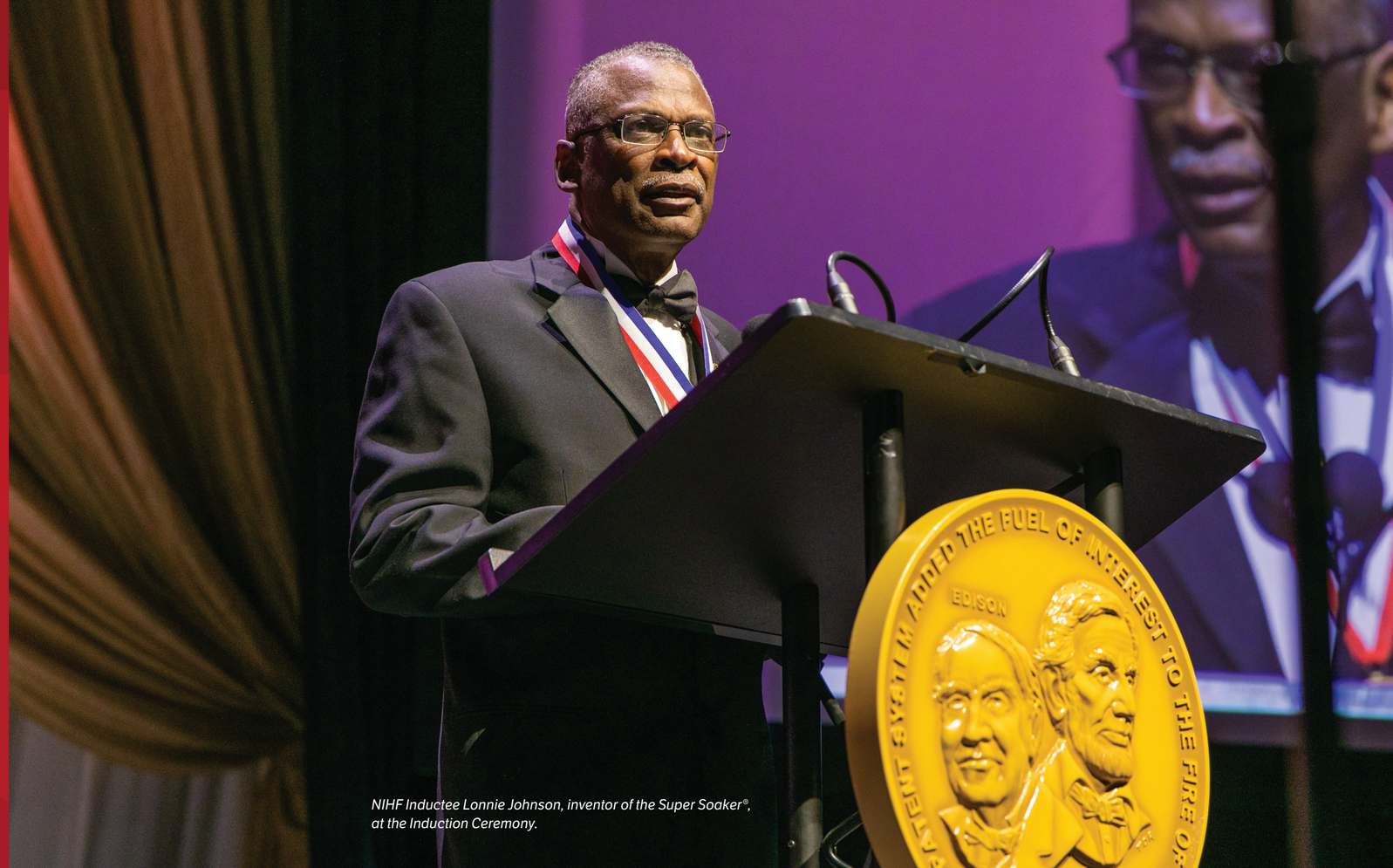
INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN INGENUITY

Every great inventor can inspire countless others to make their own innovative mark on the world. The Hall of Fame remains dedicated to connecting one generation to the next.



HONORING
the greatest innovators

Founded in 1973 in partnership with the USPTO, the National Inventors Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have conceived, patented and advanced the world's greatest technological achievements. The Hall of Fame has become the nation's leading nonprofit providing invention education programs and innovative competitions, each of which is inspired by the Inductees we honor through our museum and Induction events.



NIHF Inductee Lonnie Johnson, inventor of the Super Soaker®, at the Induction Ceremony.



Inductee Frances Ligler, inventor of portable optical biosensors, making a visit to Camp Invention.



Bobcat exhibit

NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME MUSEUM

Our National Monument to Innovation® features unique exhibits that tell the ongoing story of American ingenuity. Located at the United States Patent and Trademark Office headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, our museum invites visitors of all ages to discover the stories of more than 600 Inductees and explore interactive experiences that celebrate achievements in innovation and intellectual property.



Women in Innovation exhibit



2023 Class of Inductees exhibit

INDUCTEE SELECTION

Each year, National Inventors Hall of Fame Inductees are selected through a process that accepts nominations from all sources and relies on a panel of experts in science, technology, engineering and patents. Nominees must hold a U.S. patent that has significantly contributed to and advanced our society.

ILLUMINATION CEREMONY

To welcome each new class, our annual Induction events begin with an Illumination Ceremony held at the National Inventors Hall of Fame Museum. Each Inductee is invited to place their name on their illuminated hexagon in the Gallery of Icons™, where all Inductees are represented.



NIHF Inductee Sylvia Blankenship, co-inventor of the 1-MCP molecule for fruit, vegetable and flower freshness.



NIHF Inductee Ming-Jun Li, co-inventor of bend-insensitive optical fiber, at the Illumination Ceremony.



NIHF Inductees Polly Smith, Hinda Miller and Lisa Lindahl, co-inventors of the sports bra.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

The annual National Inventors Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony is the Greatest Celebration of American Innovation®. Honoring the world's foremost inventors, this meaningful event recognizes their achievements and brings them together with fellow leaders in innovation and intellectual property experts.



Hall of Famers at the 2022 NIHF Induction Ceremony.

INSPIRING
future innovators

The National Inventors Hall of Fame creates trusted invention education programs incorporating the lessons and stories of our Inductees. Through hands-on invention, each program empowers children to build valuable skills and exercise an innovative mindset.

Hosted annually by more than 3,000 schools and districts nationwide and led by experienced educators, our education programs provide accessible, equitable opportunities for children to explore, experiment and excel in supportive, collaborative learning environments.

**All our education programs qualify for ESSER, Title I-IV, 21st CCLC, Migrant Education and Early Learning Challenge funding, as well as state and local district funding.*



Inductee Jacqueline Quinn, inventor of an environmentally safe cleanup technology called emulsified zero-valent iron, making a visit to Camp Invention.

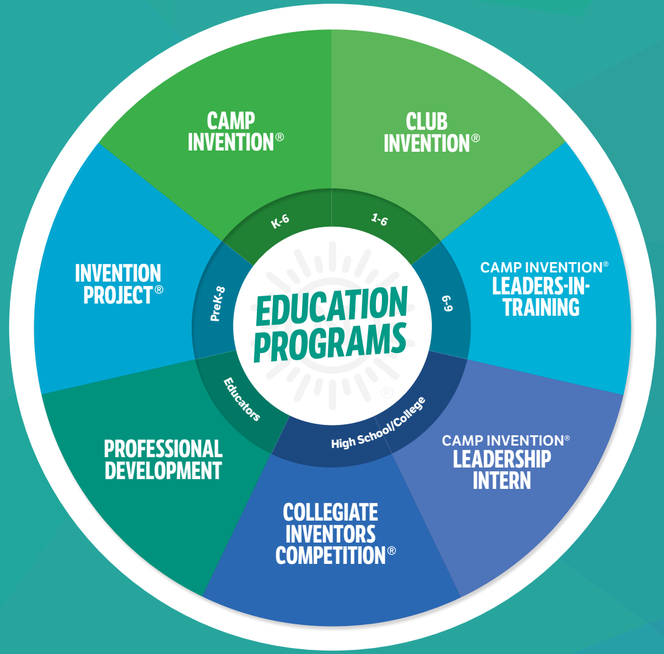






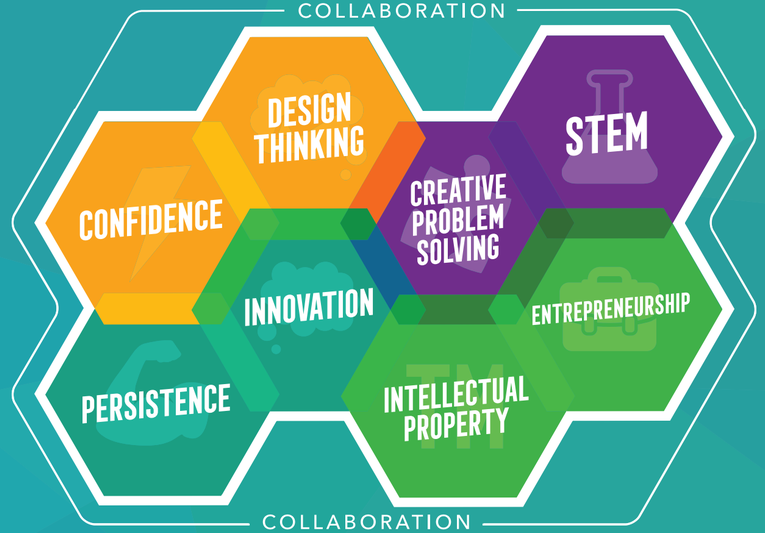
Inductee Radia Perlman, inventor of robust network routing and bridging (top), Leader-in-Training at Camp invention (middle), and 2019 Collegiate Inventors Competition Winners (bottom).

THE INNOVATION **ECOSYSTEM**



The National Inventors Hall of Fame has been a leader in invention education for more than 30 years. In collaboration with world-changing inventors, we have developed a one-of-a-kind Innovation Ecosystem of programs for preschool on, providing hands-on experiences designed to spark confidence and creativity, build real-world skills and inspire lifelong learning.

THE I CAN INVENT® **MINDSET**



The Hall of Fame's approach to invention education taps into children's natural creativity and guides them to develop the I Can Invent® Mindset.

This growth mindset, which is made up of nine essential skills and traits and infused with lessons from great inventors, prepares learners to confidently navigate life's challenges.

Each of our programs is designed to provide opportunities to build and apply this mindset, helping young innovators unlock their full potential.

Nicole Black is one of many innovators who exemplify the power of National Inventors Hall of Fame programs, having been a Camp Invention camper, Leadership Intern and Collegiate Inventors Competition winner on her journey to become an engineer, inventor and entrepreneur.



Nicole Black and Michael Kreder, co-inventors of PionEar, are named the Graduate Winners of the 2018 Collegiate Inventors Competition.

Camp Invention®

The Hall of Fame's flagship program is a nationally acclaimed STEM summer camp providing in-person, hands-on learning opportunities that turn curious K-6 students into innovative thinkers through collaborative, open-ended, confidence-building experiences.



Camp Invention® CONNECT

To bring impactful summer learning to children no matter where they are, this at-home K-6 program provides creative materials and step-by-step guides directly to participants' homes, and offers optional online collaboration sessions with a qualified educator and fellow campers.







Club Invention®

This engaging, flexible afterschool STEM program for grades 1-6 is designed to explore a range of subjects and create an immersive, in-person learning environment that encourages children to take risks, apply hands-on problem solving, and practice critical and creative thinking.

Invention Project®

This customizable, standards-aligned program brings transformative invention education into the classroom for grades PreK-8. Offering flexible in-school, afterschool or summer implementation for in-person or virtual settings, it sparks imagination, builds confidence, and encourages problem finding and solving.

LEADERS-IN-TRAINING

For students in grades 7-9, this one-of-a-kind leadership program offers the chance to build confidence and practice teamwork and goal-setting skills while making an impact as role models who provide guidance for younger children at Camp Invention.



LEADERSHIP INTERN

This rewarding STEM education volunteer program offers opportunities for high school and college students to gain leadership and communication skills, build their resumes and make a lasting difference by mentoring children engaging in hands-on innovation at Camp Invention.





PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Hall of Fame's customizable professional development workshops empower educators through interactive learning sessions, hands-on opportunities to apply the I Can Invent Mindset, and practical strategies for fostering students' creativity, persistence and problem-solving skills.



COLLEGIATE INVENTORS COMPETITION®

This national competition provides students from more than 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide with opportunities to gain valuable exposure for their work, receive feedback and guidance from Hall of Fame Inductees and intellectual property experts, and win cash and patent acceleration.

CHALLENGING
today's innovators

Since 1990, the Collegiate Inventors Competition has fueled ingenuity and entrepreneurship at the collegiate level. With the help of our sponsors, we recognize and reward students who are engaged in cutting-edge research and innovation.

“Innovation influences all aspects of humanity. It develops pathways for technological advancement, enhances societal well-being and leads to environmental sustainability. I am honored and humbled to have my work recognized by the National Inventors Hall of Fame and USPTO.”

Shrish Patel
SolarClear 2021 Graduate Winner, Stony Brook University



2022 Collegiate Inventors Competition Undergraduate Winners with Ivy Bostrom, Arrow Electronics

THANK YOU
to our sponsors

The United States Patent and Trademark Office is proud to partner with the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

NIHF's unique programs inspire creativity, innovation, interest in STEM and Intellectual Property Literacy® in students, teachers and aspiring inventors nationwide, including in traditionally underrepresented communities. Our joint effort and investment in the future of American innovation and competitiveness sets the stage for sustained opportunity, economic growth and prosperity for all Americans.

Kathi Vidal
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office



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The Fossum Family Young Inventors Fund

National Inventors Hall of Fame® Endowment Children's Education Fund

Above are a few of our 5,500+ philanthropic partners. For a full list, please visit invent.org/sponsors.

Back cover from left to right: *Inductee Rodolphe Barrangou, children at Camp Invention, Inductee Margaret Wu, NIHF Inductees Raffaello D'Andrea, Peter Wurman and Mick Mountz, Collegiate Inventors Competition Winner*













National Inventors Hall of Fame®

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