



National Inventors
Hall of Fame®

HONOR



INSPIRE

CHALLENGE



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As we commemorate the National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) 50th anniversary in 2023, we remain committed to delivering innovation in America.

With the support of our partners, NIHF has maximized our mission to help today’s students become tomorrow’s innovators and entrepreneurs, creating effective solutions to meet the needs of school districts nationwide. Through invention education programs developed in collaboration with our Inductees, we will continue empowering educators and students while bringing more joy into teaching and learning.

We believe that every child can invent — and one of the most impactful things we can do is to help them self-identify as a creative problem solver and find inspiring role models among our Hall of Famers, showing them how these visionary inventors have changed the world through ingenuity, persistence and the power of intellectual property.

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

Front cover shown left to right:
Collegiate Inventors Competition Winners
Children at Camp Invention

NIHF Inductee Marian Croak
NIHF Inductee Eric R. Fossum

OUR MISSION

From scientific discoveries that have saved lives to technological advances that have made life better, America’s history is filled with diverse stories of ingenuity and innovation. Together, we can 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 the walls of our museum to empower aspiring creators, innovators and entrepreneurs through unique and meaningful experiences.



In partnership with more than 3,000 schools and districts nationwide, we connect visionary inventors with the next generation, guiding future leaders to develop the innovative mindset and skills they need to reach their full potential.

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



NIHF Inductee Pete Wurman, co-inventor of robotic warehouse fulfillment systems, making a visit to Camp Invention.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF INSPIRATION AND IMPACT

HONORING THE
GREATEST INNOVATORS
SINCE 1973

CHALLENGING
EMERGING INNOVATORS
SINCE 1990

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

547
STUDENTS HAVE
REACHED THE
FINALIST ROUND

608 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.

INSPIRING
YOUNG INNOVATORS
SINCE 1990

WITH THE LAUNCH OF CAMP INVENTION®

NIHF became a leader in invention education. This nationwide K-6 summer camp builds an innovative mindset and skills through hands-on, problem-solving fun.

THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME
was founded with the mission to recognize inventors, promote creativity, and advance the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.

With the involvement of our inductees and the support of our partners, NIHF has evolved into a driving force in innovation.

Over the past five decades, NIHF has grown, evolved and built meaningful partnerships — ensuring that we will continue to fulfill our mission for years to come.

WELCOMING
VISITORS AT THE USPTO
SINCE 2008

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.

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

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 is dedicated to connecting one generation to the next.

HONORING

the greatest innovators

NIHF was founded in 1973 in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office to recognize individuals who have conceived, patented and advanced the world's greatest technological achievements.

Our organization has evolved to become the nation's leading nonprofit providing invention education programs and innovative competitions. Everything we do 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.



NIHF Inductee Margaret Wu, inventor of synthetic lubricants, making a visit to Camp Invention.



Champions of Innovation exhibit



Women in Innovation exhibit



2022 Class of Inductees exhibit

NIHF MUSEUM

The NIHF Museum is the National Monument to Innovation, featuring 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 explore the stories of more than 600 Inductees and enjoy interactive experiences that celebrate achievements in innovation and intellectual property.

INDUCTEE SELECTION

Each year, NIHF Inductees are selected through a process that accepts nominations from all sources and relies on a panel of experts in science, technology, engineering and intellectual property. Candidates must hold a U.S. patent that has significantly contributed to and advanced our society.

ILLUMINATION CEREMONY

To welcome each new class, NIHF's annual Induction events begin with an Illumination Ceremony held at the NIHF Museum. Inductees are invited to place their name on their individual illuminated hexagons in the Gallery of Icons™, where each of our Hall of Famers is represented.



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



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

INDUCTION CEREMONY

The annual NIHF 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 innovators, intellectual property experts and leaders in innovation.



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



Hall of Famers attending the 2022 NIHF Induction Ceremony.

INSPIRING future innovators

NIHF creates trusted invention education programs incorporating the lessons and stories of our Hall of Famers. By leveraging learners' natural inclination to create, our programs build an innovative mindset and skills through hands-on invention.

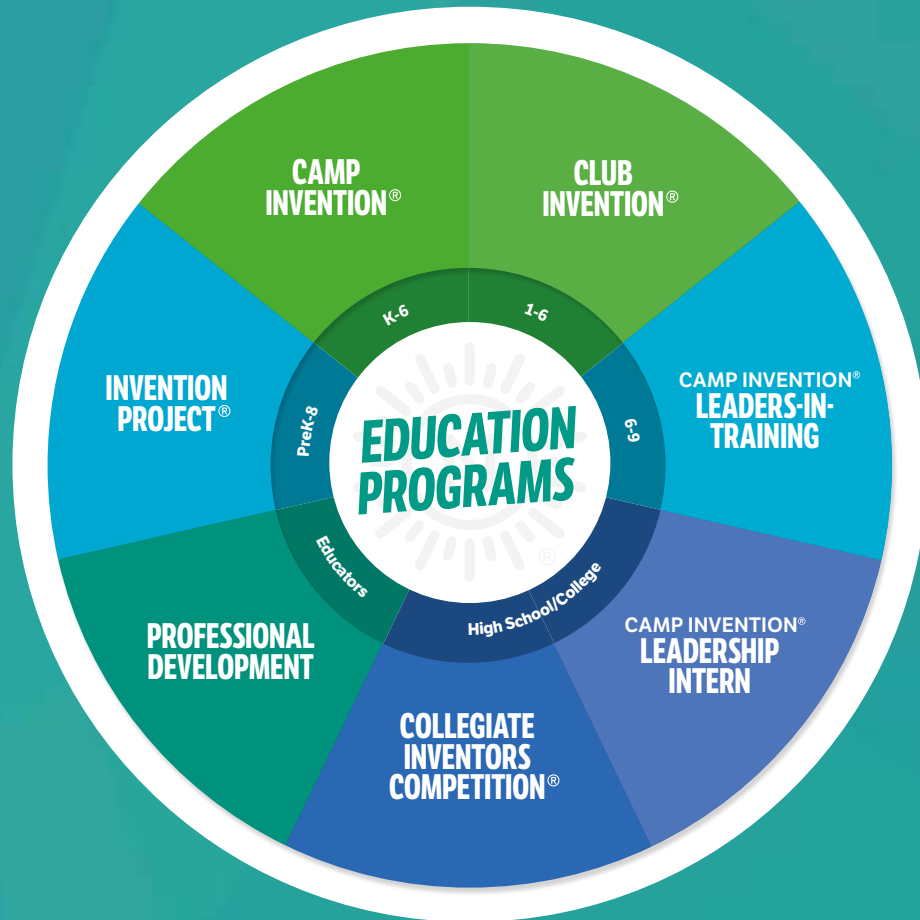
Hosted annually by more than 3,000 schools and districts nationwide and led by experienced educators, NIHF education programs provide accessible, equitable opportunities for children to explore, experiment and excel in supportive, collaborative learning environments.

*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.



NIHF Inductee Edmund O. Schweitzer III, inventor of the first microprocessor-based digital protective relay, making a visit to Camp Invention.

THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM



NIHF 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 INNOVATION MINDSET



NIHF's approach to invention education taps into children's natural creativity and guides them to develop the Innovation 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, empowering young innovators to unlock their full potential.

Nicole Black is one of many innovators who exemplify the power of NIHF's 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®

NIHF'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 and authentic social-emotional learning into the classroom for grades PreK-8, offering flexible in-school, afterschool or summer implementation for in-person or virtual settings.

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

NIHF's customizable professional development workshops empower educators through interactive learning sessions, hands-on opportunities to apply the Innovation Mindset, and practical strategies for fostering students' creativity, persistence and problem-solving skills.



COLLEGIATE INVENTORS COMPETITION®

This national competition has provided students from more than 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide with opportunities to gain valuable exposure for their work, receive feedback and guidance from NIHF Inductees and intellectual property experts, and win cash and prizes.

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.

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Innovation and invention allow us to change the world and transform our vision into impact. An innovative mindset extends to everything we do, helping us to see and overcome hurdles. We hope to inspire more people to create novel solutions to the problems people face every day.

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Stephen Kalinsky and Jared Meyers - Augment Health

2021 Undergraduate Runner-Up Team, Georgia Institute of Technology



2019 Collegiate Inventors Competition Winners

THANK YOU to our sponsors

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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.

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Kathi Vidal

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



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®



Qualcomm



The Al and Helen Free
FOUNDATION

The Amos E. Joel
Young Inventors
Endowment

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 shown left to right:
Children at Camp Invention

NIHF Inductees Raffaello D'Andrea, Peter Wurman and Mick Mountz
Collegiate Inventors Competition Winner



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