

Introducing The STEMIE Coalition

Who We Are

The STEMIE Coalition (STEMIE) is a new non-profit founded to elevate K-12 invention and entrepreneurship education to higher levels in schools across the United States. The STEMIE Coalition will be able to make an extensive, immediate, and measurable impact on youth invention and entrepreneurship by being an umbrella organization that “rolls up” and celebrates the winners from hundreds of youth invention and entrepreneurship programs across the U.S., focusing national attention on these achievements and empowering the local organizations for further growth. This, combined with an ongoing campaign to empower, support, and unite over 600 concurrently operating K-12 invention and entrepreneurship programs nationwide, will mark the first truly directed effort to bring the enriching concepts of STEM, Invention, and Entrepreneurship, all as one, to the millions of K-12 students in the U.S.

What We Do: Celebrate Nation’s Young Inventors and Entrepreneurs

The most public and unique facet of the STEMIE Coalition is the National Invention Convention (NIC) – a national annual celebration of K-12 inventors from across the U.S. The first national “finals” event is planned for May 20-21, 2016, at the USPTO headquarters in Washington, D.C. This first-of-its-kind national forum will provide a live, in-person opportunity for youth inventors in grade 4-12 to display their critical thinking skills through inventing, innovating, and entrepreneurial activations (an online virtual competition for grades K-3 will complement this). A K-12 entrepreneurship competition will be added to NIC after Year 1 to create NICEE – the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo.

In addition, the STEMIE Coalition will convene invention and entrepreneurship program leaders from across the U.S. and worldwide to share best practices, combine efforts where it makes sense, and launch new initiatives to advance our mutual goals.

Why Do We Do This?

The STEMIE Coalition is born from the nation’s increasing emphasis on STEM education. While STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) provides an excellent opportunity for students to engage in structured problem solving, it does not provide a complete and holistic problem solving experience. In today’s world, problems are not always structured and pre-packaged; to solve many of the world’s greatest challenges, problem-solvers are forced to think out-of-the box, to invent new solutions. But invention alone doesn’t solve the world’s challenges, because inventions must then be tactically refined, distributed, and shared through a sustainable business model. Thus, to truly prepare the United States’ workforce for the upcoming challenges they’re bound to face, we must not only prepare them with the core structured learning of STEM, but also the principles of Invention and Entrepreneurship. The STEMIE Coalition aims to meet this need by infusing the foundational nature of a STEM education with a motivating and collaborative curriculum of Invention and Entrepreneurship, and inspiring the youth of American not just to solve, but to create, and to share.

What We Will Achieve

The STEMIE Coalition has a goal of annual training more than 10 million student inventors and 10 million student entrepreneurs in all 50 states plus D.C. within five years.

Future Collaborations

Discussions are underway with entities such as UNICEF and other global partners for a global youth invention and entrepreneurship expo to showcase the impact of student innovation worldwide.

Non-Profit Status

The STEMIE Coalition is a Connecticut Non-Stock Corporation operating under fiscal sponsorship of the [Connecticut Invention Convention](#), a registered 501(c)(3) entity. It is in the process of obtaining its own independent 501(c)(3) status with the IRS.