

# INVENT IT, BUILD IT

INVENTION—MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE



FOR 9- TO  
12-YEAR-OLDS  
IN AFTERSCHOOL  
PROGRAMS



as built on TV™

in collaboration with

LEMELSON-MIT

InvenTeams

Inspiring a New Generation of Inventors



the **Lemelson** foundation  
improving lives through invention

Dear Afterschool Educator:

The Lemelson Foundation is delighted to bring you the *Invent It, Build It* guide. It builds on the rich resources of *Design Squad* and Lemelson-MIT InvenTeams to engage young people ages 9 to 12 in the creativity and possibility of invention. The guide's six invention challenges emphasize teamwork, creative problem solving, and how invention improves people's lives.

The activities reach young people at a time in their lives when they are still intrigued by the world around them. Our goal is to spark their investigative spirit, promote creativity, help them think through problems, and express their ideas through building things. This process stimulates young people's interest in math, science, and engineering. It also connects the process of invention to their everyday lives and to a broad range of careers and social issues.

Established by Jerome Lemelson, one of America's most prolific inventors, the Lemelson Foundation sparks, sustains, and celebrates innovation and the inventive spirit. Its programs in the U.S. and in developing countries support invention-led economic, social, and environmentally sustainable development. The Foundation works with partners to recognize and celebrate accomplished inventors, provide financial and mentoring support to grassroots inventors, offer hands-on opportunities that enable young people to develop their budding scientific curiosity, and disseminate technologies that improve people's lives.

In this spirit, we encourage you to use the *Invent It, Build It* guide to bring invention and engineering to life for young people and inspire them to investigate and solve challenging problems. Together, let's help the next generation of inventors make the world a better place!

Sincerely,



Dorothy Lemelson  
Chair



Julia Novy-Hildesley  
Executive Director

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