



National Inventors Hall of Fame®



ANNUAL REPORT 2021



A lot can change in a year. In 2020, over 90% of the schools that implemented Camp Invention®, our flagship K-6 STEM summer camp, canceled in-person programming to protect the health and safety of their students.

In response, we adapted our National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) programming for at-home learning. By maintaining the foundation of the in-person Camp Invention program and shipping program materials directly to each participant's home, we ensured that children could still access the lifelong benefits of our invention education curricula.

In 2021, we sought to maximize our mission to help transform today's children into the innovators of tomorrow. Once again, our world-class operations team developed timely ways to meet the needs of our district partners and support their quest to address learning loss and bring the joy of learning back to students and educators.

Thanks to contributions from every member of our organization, I am proud to announce that in 2021 we served 2,480 schools and districts, and for the first time in our history, provided a combined **1 million days of invention education** to over 235,000 students.

As students throughout the United States continue recovering from academic and social-emotional learning (SEL) losses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we remain confident that our education programs represent effective solutions on which educators can rely.

None of the work we do would be possible without our incredible partners, including the United States Patent and Trademark Office, our corporate and foundation sponsors, individual donors, and the tens of thousands of families, teachers and administrators who continue to put their trust in our innovative STEM programming.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Oister".

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



National Inventors
Hall of Fame®

2021

was all about persistence

At the National Inventors Hall of Fame, our mission of recognizing inventors and invention, promoting creativity, and advancing the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship was put to the test. So we applied all the lessons learned in 2020 to build and strengthen solutions to the many challenges we all faced.

Throughout 2021, we persisted and evolved, finding inspiration in the legacies of our Inductees, the dedication of our partners, and the perseverance of every teacher, parent and child across the country.





National Inventors
Hall of Fame[®]
EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A year of uncertainty
demanded bold **action.**



Invention
Playground[®]



Camp Invention[®]



Camp Invention[®]
CONNECT



Innovation
Exploration Kit[™]



Club Invention[®]



STEM Maker Lab[®]



Invention Project[®]
GRADES K-6



Invention Project[®]
GRADES 6-9

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued into 2021, children nationwide experienced significant learning losses.

With the goal of helping them catch up with both academic and social-emotional learning while building confidence as creative problem solvers, we worked harder than ever before. By continuing to build strong partnerships and develop effective, equitable education programs, we made the most of 2021.



For the first time in our organization's history, we provided a combined **1 million** days of invention education.

We reached more than **235,000** children through immersive PreK-12 STEM programs.

We partnered with more than **1,285** schools across **1,195** districts.



Our partners supported
opportunities for
underserved children.

Scholarships were provided to **165,000 children** in need of financial support.

“

Camp Invention definitely helped my child's confidence and understanding of patience. The teacher was great, enthusiastic and took an interest in the kids, which was great! Overall, it was a positive experience. Thank you for a wonderful opportunity. I would not have been able to do this without the scholarship.

”

Robyn F.
Camp Invention Parent, Evans, CO



Our sponsors and donors continued to give generously to help more children learn alongside their peers.

These young innovators would not otherwise have been able to attend and experience hands-on STEM enrichment.

“

*My 6-year-old daughter showed little interest in STEM activities before attending Camp Invention. This camp was important to me because at the very least, I wanted her to have additional exposure to engaging STEM activities. I want my daughter to have the **ability to pursue whatever path she dreams of**. She now has such a drive to create, invent and problem solve. I'm grateful for this camp and the grant that funded her attendance.*

”

Amber H.
Camp Invention Parent, Evans, CO



NIHF education programs
brought **joy** back to
teaching and learning.

In the summer of 2021, the majority of Camp Invention program sites returned to an **in-person format**. We focused on keeping children **safe and healthy** while providing the **socialization and essential SEL** they had been missing.

“

*This past year, having no in-person experiences ... Camp Invention has been **priceless!** The support, creativity and encouragement this program provides is a 10 out of 10. My daughter felt proud of herself, always came home with stories, new friends and really cool inventions! This is her third year and we will 100% be back next year. Thank you all for your **kindness and dedication to teaching** these kids amazing things!*

”

D. Dumas
Camp Invention Parent, Newburyport, MA



We helped educators and students
recapture the magic
of collaboration,
discovery and friendship.

“

As an Instructor, I see students engaged in what they are learning at a different level than during the school year. It recharges me as a teacher.

”

Kara O.

Camp Invention Instructor, Tigard, OR



We ensured
accessibility for every child,
in every community.

We prioritized equity and access for all learning styles.

In addition to offering in-person camps, we reached **6,242 children** through our at-home, parent-paid camps, including local **Camp Invention At Home** and national **Camp Invention Connect®** programs.

“

Camp Invention was such a great experience for both of my children! My oldest became more excited about building and problem solving, and was reminded that when something doesn't work out, it's an opportunity to learn and adapt. My youngest, who has learning and communication disabilities, was able to express her ideas through exploration and building, which really boosted her confidence with her peers! We will see you again next summer!

”

F. Fulton

Camp Invention Parent, Abington, MA



We sent Innovation Exploration Kits™ to **46,426 children** in grades K-9, providing opportunities for self-led, **hands-on education** anywhere.

“

*My child has a strong interest in STEM, but a huge anxiety about new experiences. Camp Invention was a **great opportunity** for him to get out during summer to do something for himself, as well as make new friends. We purchased the home kits as well, and they have been a hit. It's a **unique camp** that's more than just giving my kids something to do. It helped my child gain confidence, gain experience making social connections and feel comfortable with new, unexpected experiences. Not to mention it was right where his interests are with learning and creating.*

”

B. Bond

Camp Invention Parent, Avon, IN



We saw significant **growth**
in our district-funded programs.

To ensure districts could
**leverage American Rescue
Plan (ARP) and Elementary and
Secondary School Emergency
Relief (ESSER) funds**, we
partnered with them to build
customized solutions and
support their funding plans.



We provided **1,458 district-funded K-12 programs**, compared to 901 in 2020.

For educators, we provided **60 district-funded professional development opportunities**, compared to 29 in 2020.

“

This is my fourth year of facilitating Camp Invention. The curriculum is engaging, and the kids have a fabulous time meeting new friends, playing, learning, inventing, problem solving and just being together as kids!

”

Mary Jean C.

Camp Invention Instructor, St. Joseph, MO





National Inventors
Hall of Fame®

We continued to honor
world-changing **innovation.**



For the health and safety of our NIHF family, Induction events were not held in 2021. Instead, our team planned for our next Induction Ceremony, held on May 5, 2022.

Join Us
THURSDAY
MAY **5** 2022

The Anthem

901 Wharf St. SW, Washington, D.C.

6 p.m. | General Reception

6:30 p.m. | Dinner and Awards Ceremony

9:30 p.m. | Innovation Celebration After Party

Limited Seating • Black-Tie Attire • Complimentary Valet Parking



National Inventors
Hall of Fame®

Honoring the Greatest Innovators™



In partnership with

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

uspto

2022 INDUCTEES

Through our annual selection process, **27 groundbreaking innovators** were selected to join our 2022 class.

Our Induction Ceremony expanded our Hall of Fame to **608 Inductees**.



R. Rox Anderson



Sylvia Blankenship



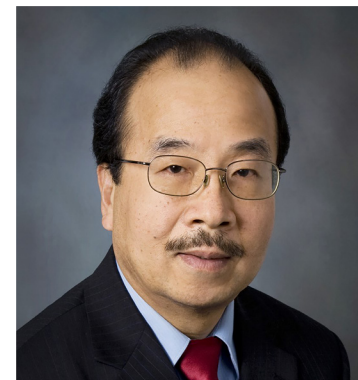
Dana Bookbinder



Marian Croak



Raffaello D'Andrea



Ming-Jun Li



Lisa Lindahl



Lonnie Johnson



James McEwen

**2022
INDUCTEES
CONTINUED**



Hinda Miller



Mick Mountz



Edward Sisler



Polly Smith



Pushkar Tandon



Margaret Wu



Peter Wurman



James Abercrombie



Stewart Adams

**2022
INDUCTEES
CONTINUED**



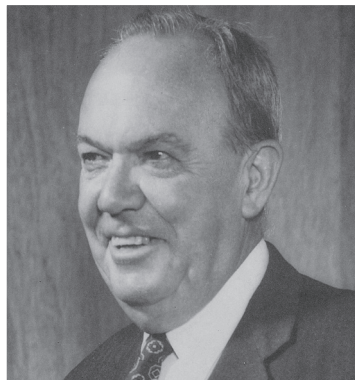
Patricia Bath



Carl Benz



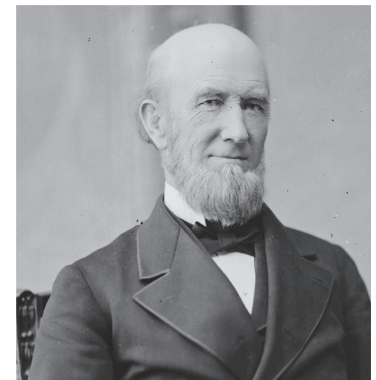
Evelyn Berezin



Edward W. Bullard



Harry Cameron



James Buchanan Eads



John Nicholson



Floyd Smith



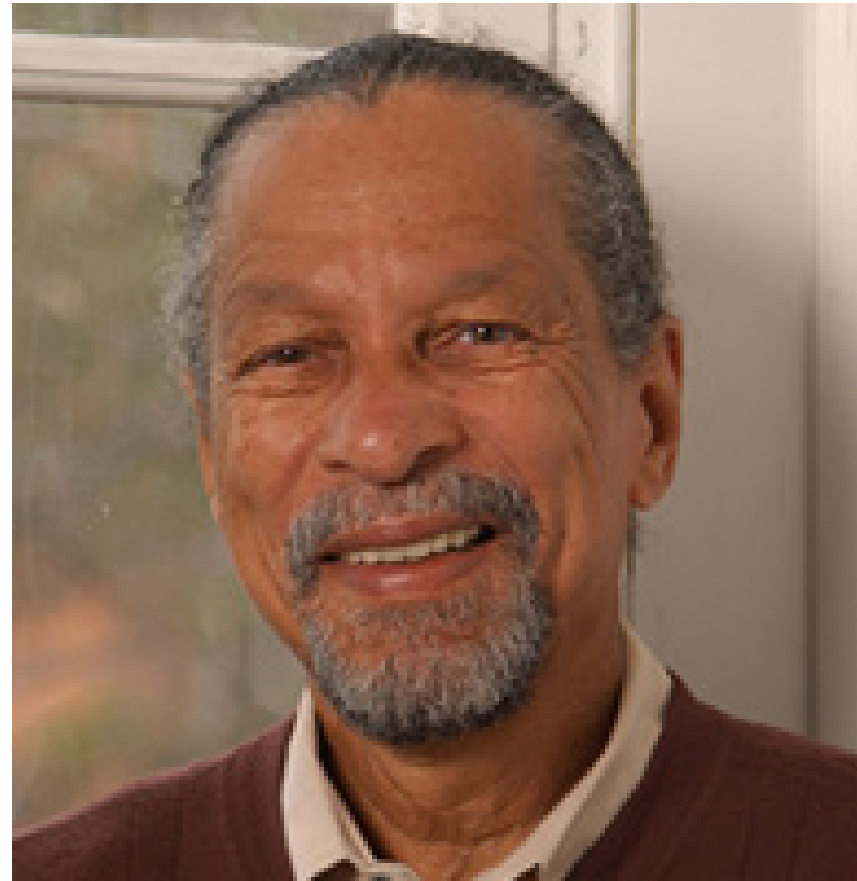
Frank Zybach

We prioritized
Inductee Integration.

NIHF Inductees inspired and were directly involved in the development of our 2021 education programs, reaching young innovators by infusing their unique insights into hands-on experiences.

More than 80 Inductees were featured in Camp Invention's 2021 curriculum, Recharge.

NIHF Inductee Jim West, co-inventor of the electret microphone, worked closely with our education team to develop the 2021 Camp Invention Open Mic™ experience.



We created new exhibits
to share meaningful
inspiration.

The NIHF Museum, located at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in Alexandria, Virginia, has been closed since early 2020 in response to the pandemic. In preparation for reopening our doors, we developed new exhibits that tell the stories of great creators, innovators and entrepreneurs.



PATENT ISSUED
OCT. 6, 2009

MARIAN CROAK

INVENTION
Voices over Internet Protocol
(VoIP) Technology

PATENT NUMBER
7,599,359

COMING SOON

BOONBINDER
LI
TANDON

SELECT TO VIEW VIDEO

PATENT ISSUED
FEB. 11, 2014

MICK MOUNTZ
PETER WURMAN

INVENTION
Mobile Robotic Material
Handling for Order
Fulfillment

PATENT

Handling the Future

Mick Mountz, Peter Wurman and Raffaello D'Andrea invented the Kiva system, a groundbreaking method of mobile robotic material handling for order fulfillment.

While e-commerce was growing rapidly at the beginning of the 21st century, material handling within distribution centers relied on techniques that were inefficient for online shopping. Mountz, Wurman and D'Andrea dramatically improved this process by using mobile robots and sophisticated software to bring inventory shelves to workers. Acquired by Amazon® in 2012, the Kiva system reduced the time from order placement to shipping, increased warehouse safety and improved fulfillment center efficiency.

We brought visionaries
into focus with the new exhibit
Breaking Barriers:
Honoring Extraordinary
Black Inventors.

NATIONAL *Inductees of the* INVENTORS' HALL OF FAME



We celebrate NIHF Inductees and additional inspiring innovators who have shaped our country and our world.

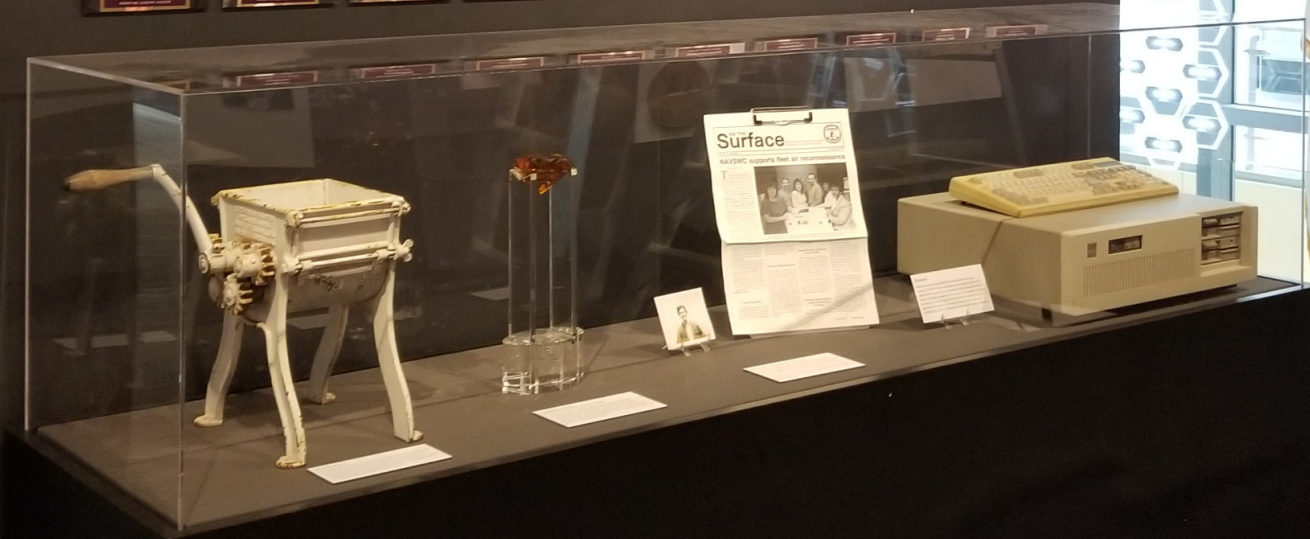
Inventor Entrepreneur Abolitionist

Thomas Jennings' Landmark Patent
INVENTOR OF DRY SCOURING
US PATENT NO. 5306X

Thomas Jennings became the first known Black inventor to receive a U.S. patent. He patented "for the purpose of a full paper" the "Dry Scouring Machine" in 1809. Jennings is an "early member of the emerging entrepreneurial class in the New York City and established his business in New York state.

Jennings received his patent in 1809, more than 30 years after the first U.S. patent was granted. Although the level of literacy was low, Jennings was a self-taught inventor and a member of the Black community. He was a member of the North Star Society and the first Black man to be elected to the office of mayor of New York City. He is often referred to as the first Black inventor.

Thomas Jennings' landmark patent, "for the purpose of a full paper" the "Dry Scouring Machine" in 1809, was a significant milestone in the history of Black inventors in the United States.





Collegiate Inventors
Competition[®]

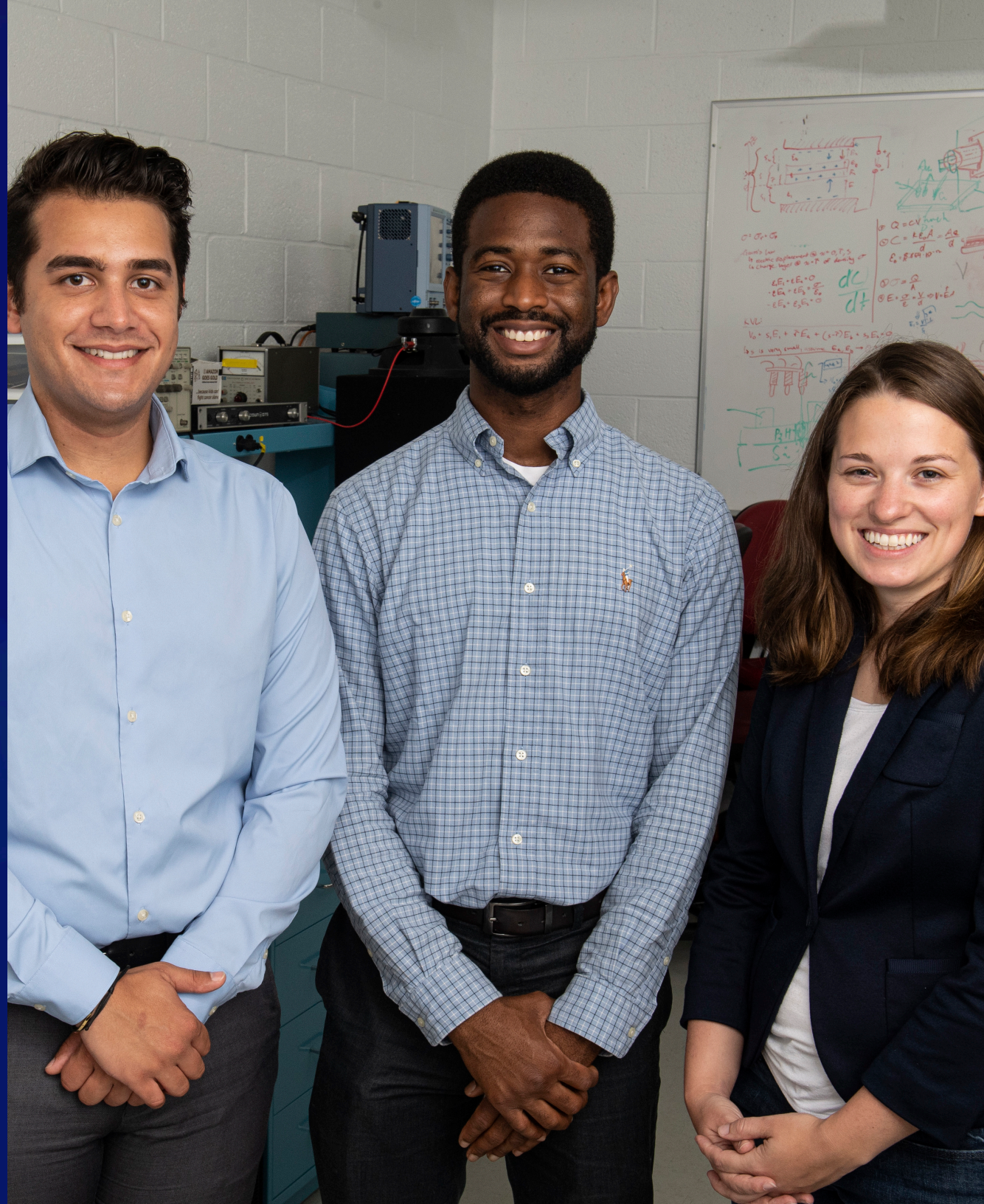
We rewarded
collegiate inventors' **ingenuity.**

The 31st annual Collegiate Inventors Competition® (CIC) gave emerging innovators the chance to compete for prizes and directly interact with NIHF Inductees and USPTO officials. The event was held in a virtual format for the safety of our Finalists and Judges.

Finalists included **20 students** from **13 colleges and universities** nationwide.

They presented their inventions to **eight NIHF Inductee Judges**.

A total of **6,028 votes** were cast for the Arrow Electronics People's Choice Award.



Our sponsors joined us in
awarding cash prizes to our
2021 Winners.

Learn more about these
outstanding inventions at
[National Inventors Hall of Fame®](#)



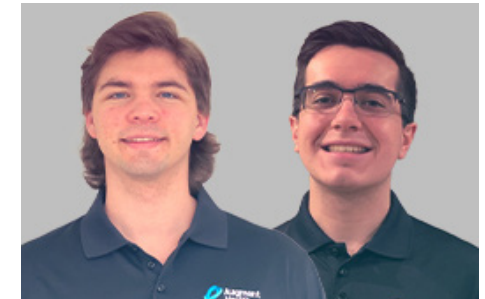
Graduate Winner Shrish Patel,
Inventor of SolarClear
Stony Brook University



Undergraduate Winner Eva Cai,
Inventor of EarFlow
Harvard University



**Graduate Runner-Up
Maha Alafeef,**
Inventor of VirSENSE
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



**Undergraduate Runners-Up
Stephen Kalinsky and Jared Meyers,**
Inventors of Augment Health Bladder
Management System
Georgia Institute of Technology



**Arrow Electronics People's Choice
Award Winner Siddharth Thakur,**
Inventor of Firebot
University of Texas at Austin

PARTNERSHIPS

Our partners were persistent in fueling POSSIBILITIES.

Generous sponsors and donors made it possible for NIHF to deliver inspiring and impactful experiences in 2021.



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In partnership with



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Annual Fund

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Collegiate Inventors Competition

Arrow Electronics

NIHF Induction Ceremony and Museum

Lisle M. Buckingham Fund of Akron Community Foundation
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Children's Education Fund and Endowments

The Fossum Family Endowment
The AI and Helen Free Foundation
The Spencer Silver Memorial Endowment Fund
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3M, in memory of NIHF Inductee Spencer Silver
David Anderson, in memory of NIHF Inductee Spencer Silver
Anonymous donors from Mt. Horeb, in memory of Charlie Bledsoe
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Bryan Silver, in memory of NIHF Inductee Spencer Silver
Dave and Barb Yarusso Giving Fund, in memory of NIHF Inductee
Spencer Silver

NIHF Education Programs

\$250,000+

Army Educational Outreach Program
Nordson Corporation Foundation
Overdeck Family Foundation

\$100,000 - \$249,000

Department of Defense STEM
Burton D. Morgan Foundation
United Way of Summit & Medina

\$50,000 - \$99,999

AbbVie Foundation
Camp Invention Director Fundraising Initiatives
Camp Invention Parents' Donations
General Motors
Google
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Walton Family Foundation

\$30,000 - \$49,999

The Boeing Company - Arizona
The Boeing Company - Puget Sound
Community Foundation of Lorain County
Ford Motor Company Fund
The Huntington-Akron Foundation
Oregon Community Foundation
OtterCares Foundation

\$20,000 - \$29,999

ABB Foundation
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Dow Corning Foundation
EQT Foundation
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\$15,000 - \$19,999

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Camp Invention Local Fundraising
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\$10,000 - \$14,999

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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$2,500 - \$4,999

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 We Energies Foundation
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\$1,000 - \$2,499

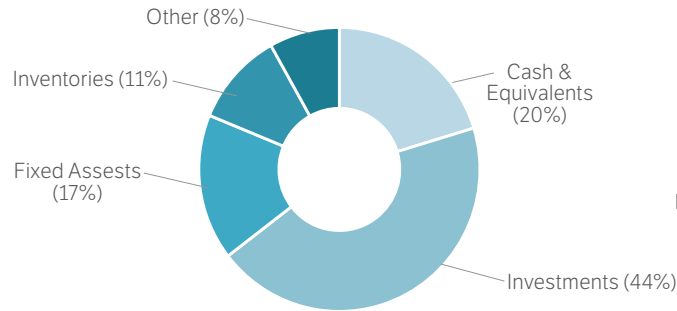
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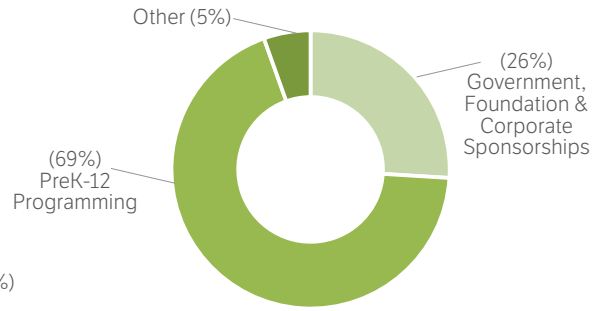
\$500 - \$999

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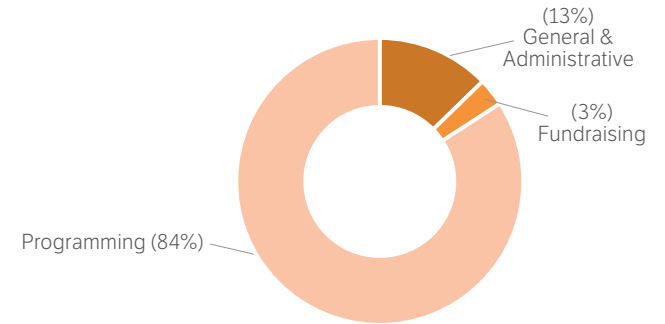
2021 Assets



2021 Revenues



2021 Expenses



Statement of Financial Position	2021	2020
Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$8,951	\$1,581
Accounts Receivable	395	230
Grants Receivable	2,260	918
PreK-12 Education Program Supplies	4,714	3,981
Investments - Market Value		
Endowment	8,199	7,360
Other	10,384	9,154
Other - Trust	944	1,065
Other Assets	916	967
Buildings, Exhibits, Collections, Software & Equipment - Net	7,343	7,850
Total Assets	\$44,107	\$33,106
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$2,139	\$1,195
Deferred Revenue	1,169	1,942
Other Liabilities	962	1,117
Total Liabilities	\$4,270	\$4,254
Net Assets	\$39,837	\$28,852
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$44,107	\$33,106

Statement of Activities	2021	2020
Revenue		
PreK-12 Programming	\$26,098	\$8,258
Government, Foundation, & Corporate Sponsorships	9,886	7,478
Paycheck Protection Program	2,000	1,912
Store	7	19
Other Revenue	66	184
Total Revenue	\$38,056	\$17,851
Expenses		
Programs:		
Education	\$23,128	\$15,269
Recognition	707	703
Museum and Exhibits	687	659
Supporting Activities:		
Management & General	3,712	3,456
Fundraising	914	633
Total Expenses Related to Program & Supporting Activities	\$29,148	\$20,721
Net from Operations	\$8,908	(\$2,870)
Realized & Unrealized Investment Income	2,077	1,943
Change in Net Assets	10,985	(927)
Transfer of Net Assets	-	5
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$28,852	\$29,774
Net Assets, End of Year	\$39,837	\$28,852

2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Along with the vital contributions of our supporters, we relied on the guidance and insight of our Board of Directors.



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THANK YOU!

We carried our mission through the year with **gratitude**.

Thank you to all who trust our organization and advance our work. It is because of you that creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship continue to thrive in the hands of coming generations.

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