

Lemelson-MIT Program Awards & InvenTeams

Alumni Involvement Opportunities

\$500,000 Lemelson-MIT Prize AND \$100,000 Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability

Screeners: The role of the Screener is to help choose finalists from the initial pool of nominations. They are responsible for reading nomination dossiers and ranking them. There are separate screening committees for the Prize and the Award. Prior to this year, the screening committees have been comprised entirely of MIT faculty. This year we would like to have a combination of MIT Faculty and alumni. Screeners will be invited to MIT's campus for a lunch to discuss nominations and rankings. Screeners should be within a commuting distance to attend the screening committee in November. They will select nominees as finalists to forward to the national jury. Screeners will be asked to participate in a brief conference call in January after the winner has been selected to ratify the decision.

- **Lemelson-MIT Prize Nominations** cover a broad range of disciplines. Screeners should be comfortable with reading nominations from across a variety of scientific and technological fields and should be equipped to evaluate a nominee's inventions and the commercialization or adoption potential of them. We seek screeners who represent diverse fields of Engineering.
- **Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability Nominations** can be in the fields of international development, energy, health, and consumer products. We are trying to focus the Award on issues in international sustainable development and would like to seek screeners who have experience in this field.

National Jury: The National Jury selects the recipients for both the Lemelson-MIT Prize and the Lemelson-MIT Award for Sustainability from the dossiers forwarded by the Screening Committee. Judges are required to read the dossiers of the finalists (typically 3-6 for each award), to participate in a videoconference to discuss nominees chosen as finalists, and to select a winner for each award. We typically have videoconference sites in Cambridge, San Francisco, and Chicago. New York and Washington D.C. can also be possibilities.

Members of the National Jury hold senior level positions, are high-level executives, and possess broad based knowledge in science, engineering, health, and technology. Examples of the caliber of national judge that we seek include: Editors or Publishers of high profile publications that cover a wide range of scientific, engineering and innovation topics, Executives at Fortune 500 companies (science and technology), Deans or Presidents of top schools/universities, accomplished Inventors, and individuals in senior leadership positions within government who would have scientific and technical expertise to evaluate nominations pertaining to issues in both industrialized and developing countries.

\$30,000 Lemelson-MIT Student Prize

Student Prize Judges: The role of a Student Prize judge is to review and select the Student Prize winner from amongst the pool of applications. Student Prize applications cover a wide range of disciplines and topics ranging from health and medicine, computer science, mechanical engineering, international development, aerospace/aeronautics, and energy.

Student Prize judges should be capable of understanding and assessing the potential of a student's collective portfolio of inventiveness as well as the potential for these inventions to be adopted. Judges read applications on-line and are made available towards the end of December to review. Judges are invited to a dinner meeting in mid-January to discuss the applications and possibly choose the winner. They may be asked to participate in a Conference Call towards the end of January to choose the Student Prize winner. We seek local Alumni with expertise in innovation, entrepreneurship and a broad scientific and technological base. The Student Prize panel consists of approximately 6-8 judges. The panel has traditionally been made up of all alumni.

InvenTeams

Screeners: The role of the Screener is to review the initial applications and help discern whether the teachers are appropriate and well prepared to lead an InvenTeam. Screeners are responsible for reviewing initial applications and participating in a lunch meeting in early May to discuss their perspectives.

For InvenTeam Screeners, we seek members of the MIT community who are involved with K-12 education and outreach, and are familiar with the demands of the InvenTeams initiative. These Screeners assess the educator applicants' excitement and ability to facilitate a student-driven, hands-on invention project at their school or other educational organization, as well as that organization and community's ability to support a high-level, year-long invention project.

Judges: The role of the Judge is to review the final applications and help select which high schools are best able to accommodate an InvenTeam. Judges are responsible for reviewing final InvenTeam applications and participating in a lunch meeting in late September to deliberate and select the year's InvenTeams.

For InvenTeam Judges, we seek people with the technical expertise to know whether a school's proposition will be feasible or not. Judges may be inventors themselves, and tend to work in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Education.

Mentors: The role of an InvenTeam Mentor is to serve as a resource for students as they work to develop their invention. Volunteering as an InvenTeam Mentor is a wonderful way for alumni around the country to become involved with InvenTeams and K-12 education in their area.

For InvenTeam Mentors, we seek people with both technical, financial, marketing, or intellectual property expertise and a desire to work closely with high school students. We



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begin recruiting Mentors in the summer months to serve as a resource for our InvenTeam finalists as they work to cement their plan for invention and submit their final application. The InvenTeams continue to recruit Mentors through the fall.