

**For more information:**

Helen Charov, CIC (860) 614 6456

[helen.charov@ctinventionconvention.org](mailto:helen.charov@ctinventionconvention.org)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**200 Connecticut Young Inventors Head to Capitol on April 1**

**Event Marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual “CIC Day at the Capitol” and record inventors in CIC programs**

**Hartford, Conn.** – 198 Student Inventors from 17 different schools will be at the State Capitol today demonstrating their inventions as part of the CT Invention Convention (CIC). Legislators will have the opportunity to talk with students about their inventions and watch demonstrations. Wednesday’s event marks the 10<sup>th</sup> time that the Connecticut Invention Convention is welcomed to “CIC Day at the Capitol” since 2005, and record numbers of schools and students participating in the CIC program.

Student inventors will be located on the Concourse and in the Rotunda, North Hall, Hall of Flags and the Capitol Lobby, and will be demonstrating the inventions they have prepared at their local school programs, readying for the May 2 finals at the University of Connecticut, Storrs.

This is the first time in the 32-year history of the CIC program that more than 200 schools have been participating in the CIC STEM program which teaches students in grades K-12 the basics of invention, innovation and entrepreneurship. Over 15,000 students are engaged in local programs this year, with 1000 anticipated to attend the annual state-wide finals event at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, this year on May 2. Recently, two CIC inventors were chosen to present at the White House Science Fair on March 23, signaling an interest in spotlighting not just inspiring young achievers in science, but also student inventors, innovators, and entrepreneurs. The CIC inventors at the White House had spent between 3 and 4 years developing their inventions into products.

The CIC student inventors attending the “CIC Day at the Capitol” today are at the beginning of their invention process, having completed brainstorming of “What Bugs You?” with a working prototype of their invention, created a display and kept an Inventor’s Log. They will practice their “pitches” in a non-competitive format of “show and tell” to legislators from their districts and interested visitors, preparing for the competition at Storrs which chooses hundreds of “Recognized Inventors” arranged in judging circles and chooses category awards such as “Best Energy Invention” chosen by judges from Eversource Energy, “Best Sports Invention” chosen by ESPN judges, and “Best Innovative use of Power in an Invention,” by UTC’s Pratt & Whitney judges.

“I always look forward to the annual CIC at the Capitol Day,” said State Representative Gregory Haddad (D-Mansfield) who also serves as a member of the CIC Board of Directors. “These students continue to impress me with their work year in and year out and I am glad that my colleagues in the legislature will get a chance to see some of Connecticut’s brightest young minds at work. These students should be all be very proud of themselves.”

**EDITORS: Schools which will be represented:**

School	Town
Annie Fisher STEM Magnet	Hartford

Highland Park School	Manchester
Tariffville School	Simsbury
Ivy Drive School	Bristol
Hebrew Academy of Greater Hartford	Bloomfield
Talcott Mountain Academy	Avon
Wolcott Public Schools	Wolcott
Ashford School	Ashford
RD Seymour	East Granby
Cromwell Public Schools	Cromwell
Ross Woodward Classical	New Haven
Allgrove School	East Granby
Capital Prep	Hartford
St. Rita School	Hamden
JFK Middle School	Enfield
O'Brien STEM Academy	East Hartford
Charles H. Barrows	Windham

### **About the Connecticut Invention Convention**

The Connecticut Invention Convention is a 32-year old non-profit organization whose mission it is to foster interest in STEM careers in children in grades K-12 through a classroom-based program of invention, innovation and entrepreneurship. The program is conducted year-round in more than 200 schools in over half the cities and towns in Connecticut, with local “invention conventions” held at schools or districts, culminating with a state-wide finals hosted by the UCONN School of Engineering at Storrs, in May. Its goal is to have “every child, in every school, become an inventor once, better twice,” as a way of encouraging problem-solving and creativity in children now and for the rest of their lives.

Since its founding in 1983, it has supported over 300,000 inventors in the program, and is the largest and longest continuously operating program of its kind in the nation, with participation of 54% girls and 24% minorities. It is supported by major Connecticut corporations such as United Technologies, Eversource Energy, Stanley Black & Decker, 3M, Boehringer-Ingelheim, ESPN, Alexion Pharmaceuticals, Hubbell, Lincoln Financial Foundation, Cantor Colburn, Connecticut Innovations (CTNext) and Connecticut General Assembly, Praxair, Bank of America, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Electric Boat, Pitney Bowes, Comcast, Liberty Bank, Microsoft, Petit Family Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Comcast, Electric Boat, Pitney Bowes, DST Output, Loureiro Engineering Associates, as well as partnered with the CT Space Grant College Consortium and the University of Connecticut Schools of Engineering, Business and Education, and the Institute of Materials Science at UConn. The New London Day Publishing Company is CIC’s Media Sponsor. For more information, see [www.ctinventionconvention.org](http://www.ctinventionconvention.org), or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ctinventionconvention> or Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/ctinvent>.

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