

# Spark

The K-12 Intellectual Property Newsletter for Educators



## 2018 NATIONAL SUMMER TEACHER INSTITUTE

The 2018 NSTI will convene [DATES] at the [LOCATION]. This program aims to help teachers inspire the next generation of inventors, problem-solvers, and entrepreneurs. For more information, please visit the NSTI FAQs or read about the experience from the perspective of 2017 NSTI participant, Becky McDowell. Fifty teachers from across the United States will be selected to participate in this year's event. Apply today.

### Education and Outreach Info

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## Upcoming Programs

### February 17, 2018

Discover Engineering Family Day  
Washington, DC

### February 22, 2018

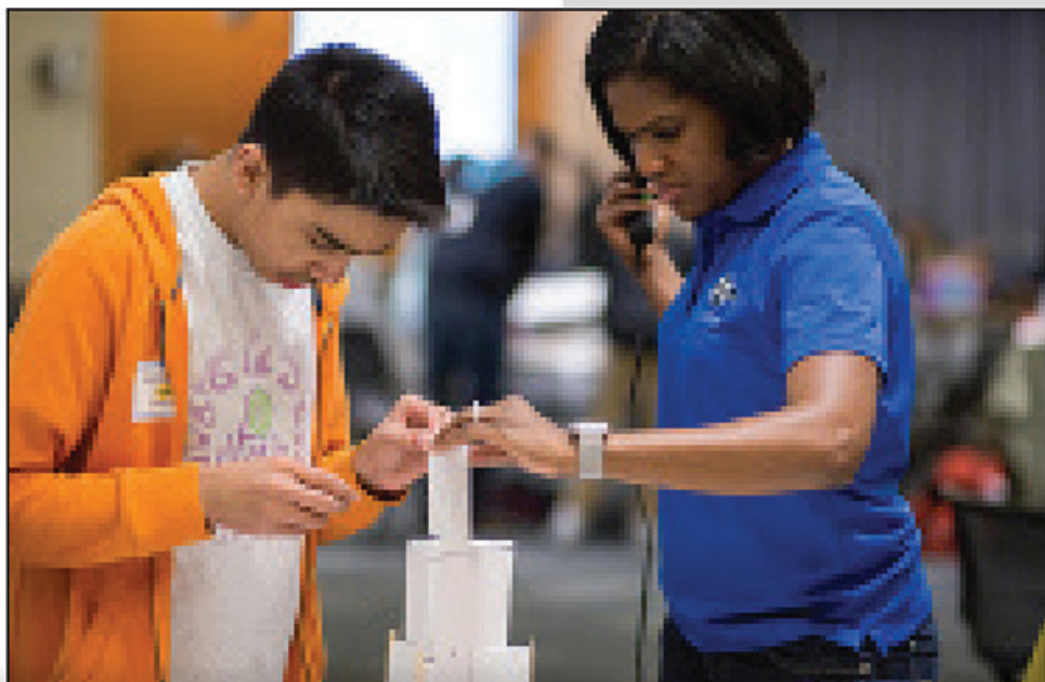
Engineers Week at USPTO  
Alexandria, VA

### April 7-8, 2018 – USA

Science & Engineering  
Festival Washington, DC

### July, 2018 – 5th

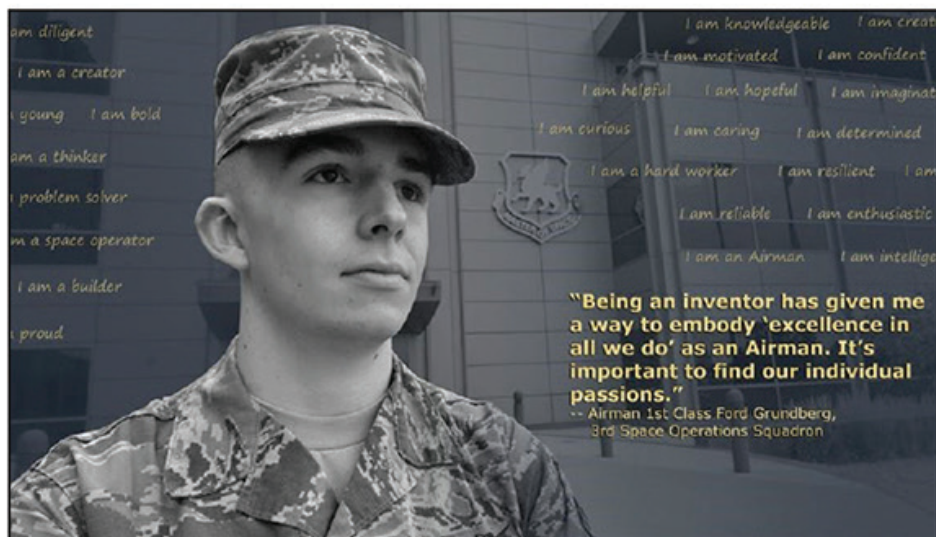
Annual National  
Summer Teacher Institute TBA







## Spotlights (Students, Educators, Success Stories)



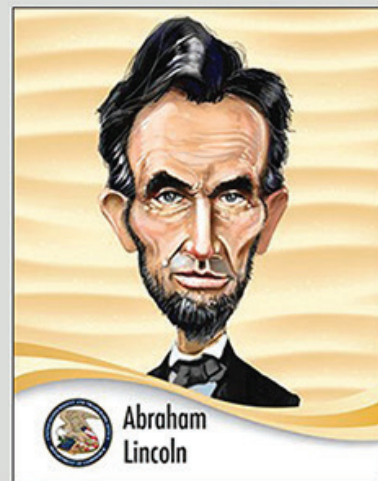
### Ford Grundberg

Ford Grundberg is an Airman 1st Class, 3rd Space Operations Squadron Defense Satellite Communications System satellite vehicle operator with the United States Air Force. While attending Natick High School in Massachusetts, Ford became a member of the high school's Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam where he worked with his teacher—and 2014 NSTI participant—Doug Scott and teammates to develop an ice search-and-rescue vehicle for which they received a U.S. patent.

Grundberg and Scott both spoke at the 2017 National Summer Teacher Institute in Denver, Co. where they discussed the process of applying for a patent and how that process changed Ford's life.

Read more about Ford and his passion for inventing here!

## Featured Inventor Trading Card



President's Day: Did you know that Abraham Lincoln is the only president who held a patent? On May 22, 1849, Lincoln received Patent No. 6,469 for a device to lift boats over shoals. An avid boater, Lincoln thought of his invention while traveling home between sessions of Congress on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, where his boat often got stuck on sandbars and needed to be lifted out.

### Permanent Links :

[Uspto.gov/kids](https://www.uspto.gov/kids)

[National Summer Teacher Institute Science of Innovation](#)

Journeys of Innovation Rory Cooper, Jim West, Temple Grandin, JGL

[Speaker Requests](#) – Plan a Visit or Invite Us to Your School

[Contact Us](#)

[Careers at USPTO USPTO Internship/Externship Programs](#)

### Photo credits:

John S. Doe, Jane S. Doe



## Spotlights (Students, Educators, Success Stories)



### The Floodie™

In 2013, a group of eight 7th grade students from Lunsford Middle School in Loudon County, Va. entered the FIRST® LEGO® League Global Innovation Awards (FLL GIA). Their challenge was to come up with an invention to help mitigate the effects of natural disasters. The Lunsford Lions, as they called themselves, decided to focus on flooding—specifically, how they could help victims stay afloat in the event of a flash flood.

Early in the FLL GIA program, the Lions attended the 2013 Meet the Inventors program at the US Patent & Trade-

mark Office where they met with experts and experienced inventors to talk about their ideas. They discussed everything from ideation to prototyping and even the patent and trademark application processes. Following Meet the Inventors, the team settled on an idea for a hooded jacket that, when activated, turns into an emergency flotation device.

When the FLL GIA program concluded in June 2014, the Lunsford Lions weren't just satisfied with a successful project. They wanted to take their idea to the next level. With pro bono assistance from a local law firm, they submitted their patent application.

The team and their attorneys worked closely with USPTO patent examiner Stephen Avila throughout the process and, after three years of hard work, the Lions finally received a patent in 2016 for their invention, The Floodie™.

At the 2017 Invention-Con at the USPTO, representatives from the Lunsford Lions—now high school students—spoke very highly of both Mr. Avila specifically and the patent process in general. [INSERT A QUOTE??]

To learn more about kid and teen inventors, please visit the USPTO Kids' Pages!

## Featured Information