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**Cleveland's First Invention Convention Showcases  
Students and their Inventions**

Cleveland's first Regional Invention Convention will showcase the areas best young innovators – as they bring their hopes and prototypes - to compete for college scholarships and prizes at the Great Lakes Science Center...Saturday, February 17, 2007. With the help of this year's Honoary Event Chairman, Linda Abraham Silver, President of The Great Lakes Science Center, 57 prizes will be awarded - including the Grand Prize, a \$2,500 college scholarship.

These students were selected as top inventors from participating school districts in Cuyahoga, Lorain and Medina Counties. Just Think Inc., the non-for-profit organization responsible for creating and implementing the Invention Convention Program is proud to have The Great Lakes Science Center as Host of this year's competition.

Offered free to schools in the area, the Invention Convention is a full semester in-school program that inspires students to create and problem solve while developing their inventions. It differs from science fairs in that the focus of the curriculum is to recognize simple to complex problems that individuals face everyday and follow them through the process of creating solutions to them.

For over a decade, one million+ Ohio young people have participated in The Invention Convention creating useful, sometimes crazy and always interesting inventions. Now in its first year in the Cleveland area, local students have had a chance to do the same as the program follows through with their statewide expansion plans.

The Cleveland region was chosen as the 2nd phase of expansion because, "The Cleveland community has a distinguished history of inventors and innovators - and the next generation of great inventors deserve their stories and successes to be both recognized and celebrated. It will be exciting to see the inventions these kids come up with.", says Cherylyn Rushton, Executive Director since 1997.

Awards will be presented to top inventors including the grand prize, a \$2,500 college scholarship through The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority. Additional prizes awarded include 1<sup>st</sup> place \$500 scholarships in each age group, \$50 savings bonds to an additional 50 superior inventors, The Chairman's Choice Award, and The Teacher of Excellence Award.

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-2-

Invention Convention student winners have been recognized nationally. 1999 Invention Convention Winner Lisa Wright has a provisional patent on her invention, The Wright Candle, and was formally inducted into the National Gallery for America's Young Inventors in 2000. Eleven other Invention Convention "Alumni" have achieved national recognition – including national television appearances on The Tonight Show With Jay Leno, David Letterman, Montel Williams and The Ellen DeGeneres Show.

The expansion of the program is made possible through the contributions of The Invention Convention's Founding Partners: Battelle, Grange Insurance Companies, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and ThisWeek Community Newspapers. Cleveland Area sponsors include: Pearne & Gordon, LLP – a Cleveland law firm specializing in Patent Law; The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority - the "Official Scholarship Provider"; and the Great Lakes Science Center – host of the event.

The general public is invited to view student inventions starting at 2:00 PM and the award ceremony starting at 3:00 PM on Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in the Atrium of The Great Lakes Science Center. Admission to the museum and parking is at normal rates, but admission to the exhibit hall and The Invention Convention is free.

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