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Invention Convention Kicks Off Second Year of Miami Valley Competition

The Invention Convention had such a successful first year in Miami Valley that they decided to expand the regional competition to include Logan, Shelby, Darke, Preble, Champaign and Miami counties. Last year Kids in Clark, Greene and Montgomery counties had the 1st chance to experience the program as part of the statewide expansion plan.

In existence for eleven years in the Columbus area, over 450,000 Central Ohio kids to date have participated in The Invention Convention, creating useful, sometimes crazy and always interesting inventions.

Offered free to schools, The Invention Convention inspires students to create and problem solve while developing their inventions. School Districts in these counties, including private academies and home school organizations must reply before September 29th to secure their space at the convention. 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.

Last year 58 awards were given to Miami Valley participating students for their inventions. The Grand prize "The Wright Innovator Award", a \$2,500 college scholarship went to John Howe a sixth grader from Ankeny Middle School (Beavercreek School District) for his invention "The De-Hairifier", a device used to get the hair out of the pet brush.

The Miami Valley region was chosen as the first phase of expansion because according to Cherylyn Rushton, Executive Director since 1997, "The region is ripe with invention as a part of its history which makes this area the most appropriate launch of our next ten years. It was exciting to see what the kids created with so much invention history surrounding them," says Rushton.

Jenni Davis, Supervisor of Gifted Services for Montgomery County Educational Service Center, has been an educator for 33 years and participated in the first Miami Valley Invention Convention at Wright State. "I've had students involved in many different programs over the years, and Invention Convention is among the best I've encountered. This program really addresses the importance of "different" in "differentiation".... as it provides motivational ideas, materials, teaching strategies and a culminating activity that students of various ability levels and all grade levels can participate in and enjoy," commented Davis.

Miami Valley's second Regional Invention Convention will showcase the best inventions from area students on February 3, 2007 where 58 prizes will be awarded. The Grand Prize, the "Wright Innovator" award is a \$2,500 college scholarship.

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 Just Think Inc. Miami Valley sponsors contributing to the program last year included Honda of America, The Turner Foundation and The Ohio Tuition Trust Authority.

Just Think Inc. the organization behind The Invention Convention, a 501 c-3 is seeking local Presenting and Supporting Sponsors. Interested business and philanthropic organizations or individuals may find out more about the program by contacting:

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