

## Memo to 2004 Applicants

Congratulations.

You are preparing to enter the premier invention program for college students in the world. These tips and this checklist will help guide you. As you prepare your entry, you will be practicing some of the points of protecting your intellectual property. This is the basis for developing your technology. If you have questions, download the Patent Booklet from our web site, consult with your advisor or visit your school's licensing office.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Please read through the complete package before you begin. **Send 4 copies of your completed application form.** Three (3) copies of any supplementary material, including slides, photos, or video tapes should accompany the application. Staple or hinge-clip each application packet. **DO NOT** assemble it in any permanent type of binding.

**Applications must be received by June 1, 2004.** Late entries or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

## Tips for Preparing Entries

The following suggestions may help you in preparing your entry. Although they will not guarantee a winning entry, they are traits consistently found in past winning applications:

- o **TYPED** or prepared on a word processor, with pages numbered and stapled together (not permanently bound).
- o **CLEAR** and to the point. What is your invention? It is important to articulate what the invention is and why it is an invention, how it advances current technology. After writing your submission, consider asking a colleague to read it for clarity. It may also help to have someone review it who is not familiar with your work. Spelling and grammatical errors affect how your entry is judged.
- o **CONCISE.** The more concise the better. Avoid jargon. Superfluous material (i.e., research papers done on another subject matter that are submitted as appendices) detracts from a strong entry. In order to get maximum scoring points, **be sure that your essay covers all requested information.**
- o **COMPLETE.** A Checklist is included for your convenience.
- o **CONVINCING.** It is up to you to convince judges that your entry is the best of many high quality inventions. Although the judges are experienced researchers, they may not be familiar with your particular project or specialty. Describe your work in the most positive, comprehensible manner, understandable to a scientifically literate person (i.e., in the style of Scientific American or Nature).

## Your entry must include:

- o **A SUMMARY OF CURRENT LITERATURE AND YOUR PATENT SEARCH** These elements are essential to describing the current state of the art and in distinguishing your idea from what is taught in these documents. Highlight the originality of your idea. Why is it different? A high percentage of the total points is awarded for originality.
- o **TEST DATA** Your test data and its analysis should demonstrate that your idea, invention, or design is workable.
- o **INVENTION'S BENEFITS** The environmental, societal, and economic benefits are an important consideration of the judging process.

## Your entry should include:

- o **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL** to help the judges better understand what your invention really is and how it works. These supplements can be (but are not limited to) photos, slides, disks, videotapes, and even samples. Three (3) sets of supplementary material should accompany your application, and must be clearly labeled with your name and title of the invention on each item. Do not send prototypes. *Applications and supplementary material will not be returned unless specifically requested.*

## 2004 Guidelines

### Program Objectives

The Collegiate Inventors Competition is an international competition designed to encourage college students active in science, engineering, mathematics, technology and creative invention, while stimulating their problem-solving abilities. This prestigious challenge recognizes the working relationship between a student and his or her advisor who are involved in projects leading to inventions that can be patented.

While encouraging student/advisor relationships, innovation, and creative problem solving, the competition seeks to stimulate excitement and interest in technology and economic leadership. By recognizing these creative people, we can accomplish these goals.

The Collegiate Inventors Competition was introduced by the National Inventors Hall of Fame in May, 1990.

### Sponsors

The Collegiate Inventors Competition is a program of The National Inventors Hall of Fame. The presenting sponsor of the program is the United States Patent & Trademark Office.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame was founded in 1973 by the United States Patent & Trademark Office and the National Council of Intellectual Property Law Associations to recognize the great inventors of our time.

### Eligibility

Students must be enrolled, or have been enrolled, full-time (in any college or university) at least part of the 12-month period prior to the date the entry is submitted. In the case of a team, with a maximum of 4 students, at least one member of the team must meet the full-time eligibility criteria. The other team members must have been enrolled, as a minimum, on a part-time basis sometime during the 24-month period prior to the date the entry is submitted.

### Requirements

The invention, a reduced-to-practice idea or workable model, must be the work of a student or team of students with his or her university advisor. If it is a machine, it must be operable. If it is a chemical, it must be complete with evidence of successful application of the idea. If it is a new plant, color photographs or slides must be included in the submission. If a new or original ornamental design for an article of manufacture is submitted, the entire design must be included in the application. In addition, the invention should be reproducible. The entry must be the original idea and work product of the student/advisor team, and may not have been (1) made available to the public as a commercial product or process or (2) been patented or published more than 1 year prior to the date of submission to the competition. The entry submitted must be in English.

Do not send your invention. Finalists will be notified by telephone in early September, 2004 and given instructions for sending any necessary documentation. A university transcript must be provided at that time to verify student status. Final judging takes place in November in Washington, DC.

# the collegiate inventors competition®

## 2004 Guidelines (cont.)

### Deadline

Each student or student team must submit four (4) copies of the completed Student/Advisor Application **by June 1, 2004** to:

The Collegiate Inventors Competition  
c/o The National Inventors Hall of Fame  
221 S. Broadway Street  
Akron, Ohio 44308-1505

### Questions?

Call Ray DePuy (330) 849-6887 or send e-mail to [rdepuy@invent.org](mailto:rdepuy@invent.org)

### Awards

Graduate Category Collegiate Inventors Competition award winners: \$25,000 student or student team; \$5,000 advisor.  
Undergraduate Category Collegiate Inventors Competition award winners: \$15,000 student or student team; \$5,000 advisor.

In November, 2004, finalists travel to Washington, DC to meet with the judging panel. This is an opportunity to clarify entries with the judges. It is also a chance to meet with other top students of technology. The Collegiate Inventors Competition winners are presented following the judging. Winners must be present at the awards presentation to receive their prize.

### Judging

The committee of judges is comprised of mathematicians, engineers, biologists, chemists, environmentalists, physicists, computer specialists, members of the medical and veterinary profession, and specialists in invention and development of technology. The judges decisions will be final.

Each entry is judged on originality and inventiveness pertaining to the new idea, process or technology. It must be complete, well-articulated, and workable. It is also be judged on its potential value to society (socially, environmentally, and economically), and on its range or scope of use.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS JUNE 1, 2004**

**Checklist for Entries**  
**2004 Student/Advisor Application (by Section)**

- A. Student Information** (Application page 1)
- o College/University Information
  - o Current Academic Status
  - o Title of Invention (simplified)
  - o Invention Category
- B. Student Essay (please number all pages submitted)** (Application page 2)
- Part I. Summary**
- o One Paragraph Description of Invention (including title of invention)
- Part II. Background Information** (1,500 words)
- o Problem Definition/Solution
  - o What is New About Your Invention
  - o Description of How It Works
  - o Benefits of Invention (economic, environmental, and societal)
  - o Discussion of differences between invention and prior technology  
(literature, patents, commercial products; this may be included as an appendix, and will not be counted as part of the 1,500 word limit)
  - o Roles of Student(s) and Advisor
- Support Materials**
- o Photographs/Slides/Illustrations/Videos  
-if needed to show or demonstrate that (or how) the invention works
- C. Verification of Literature/Patent Search** (Application page 2)
- o Advisor and Student(s) Signature Verifying Literature Search
- D. Advisor Information** (Application page 3)
- E. Advisor Letter** (500 words maximum) (must be on university letterhead) (Application page 3)
- o Student's Role in Invention must be clearly stated
  - o Special Characteristics of Student
  - o Significance of Invention
- F. Statement of Enrollment Status** (Application page 3)
- o Advisor Signature on Statement of Enrollment Status

- Student/Advisor Release Form** (Application page 4)
- o Title of Invention
  - o Student's (all members if part of a team) and Advisor's Signature and Date
  - o Parent/guardian Signature (if under 18)

**Mailing Package** -- All entries must be received in Akron by June 1, 2004.

- o Send 4 copies of your application.
- o Send 3 copies of any supplementary material clearly labeled.

Send to: **The Collegiate Inventors Competition**  
**c/o The National Inventors Hall of Fame**  
**221 South Broadway Street**  
**Akron, Ohio 44308-1505**

# the collegiate inventors competition® 2004 student/advisor application

## Section A: Student Information

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Last Name* *First Name* *MI*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mailing Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City* *State* *Zip Code*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Phone (s)* *Fax* *e-mail address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*\*Mailing Address and Phone Number after August 1 (if different from above)\**

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City* *State* *Zip Code*

For additional student team members, attach a **separate sheet**. Include all names, addresses, phone numbers, student status, and optional information. Do not list advisors in this section.

### Your College or University

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Institution Name* *Website Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*College/School* *Department*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Mailing Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City* *State* *Zip Code*

### Current Academic Status

- Undergraduate. *Major* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Graduate (specify degree program)  *Masters*  *Doctoral*  *Postdoctorate*. *Major* \_\_\_\_\_

**Title of Invention** (please simplify):

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Invention Category** Please select the category that best fits your invention.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Software/Information Technology | <input type="checkbox"/> Biotech/Genetics       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronics/Computer Hardware   | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Materials Science               | <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Engineering |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medicine/Pharmaceuticals        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____  |

\_\_\_\_\_  
Where have **you** heard about the Competition? (*Check all that apply*)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail from advisor           | <input type="checkbox"/> saw the poster                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> e-mail from student colleague | <input type="checkbox"/> website                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> received a mailing            | <input type="checkbox"/> television                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> advisor spoke to me about it  | <input type="checkbox"/> professional journal (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> advertisement                 | <input type="checkbox"/> other publication _____              |

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## 2004 student/advisor application

### Section B: Student Essay

Follow the format for each section and number all pages submitted.

#### Part I (Not to exceed 50 words)

##### What is your Invention?

Prepare a summary paragraph which includes the title of your invention, a specific description of what your invention is and how or what your invention adds to the current technology of your field.

#### Part II (Not to exceed 1500 words)

##### Describe your invention.

- a) Define the problem or need and how your invention/discovery offers the solution.
- b) Identify the part of your invention that is new.
- c) How does it work? (It is best to support your claim with evidence and analysis of data.)
- d) What are the potential economic, environmental, and societal benefits of your solution?
- e) How does your invention improve upon prior technology?  
(Include an analysis or summary of the literature and patent search. This helps demonstrate the originality of your entry. This may be included as an appendix, and will not be counted as part of the 1500 words.)
- f) Identify the roles of the inventors (student(s) and advisor). Whose idea was it, and what did each person contribute?

#### Supplementary Material

You may include photos, slides, disks, videotapes, and even samples, to help the judges understand your invention and how it works. Three (3) sets are required for judging.

### Section C: Literature Research

*(A literature and/or patent search is an essential component for determining originality of the idea presented. Please complete the statement below.)*

**We certify that a literature and/or patent search has been completed for this invention. To the best of our knowledge, we believe this invention to be original work as described in this application. If a team of students submit, all must print and sign their names below.**

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*Student(s) Name (please print)*

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*Student Signature(s)*

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*Advisor's Name (please print)*

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*Advisor's Signature*

*Date*

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2004 student/advisor application

**Section D: Advisor Information**

_____	_____	_____
<i>Last Name</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>MI</i>
_____		
<i>Title</i>	<i>Department</i>	
_____		
<i>Mailing Address</i>		
_____		
<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip Code</i>
_____		
<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Fax Number</i>	<i>e-mail address</i>

**Section E: Advisor Letter**

*(Please respond to the following questions in 500 words or less, using university/college letterhead.)*

- What was your role in the development of this invention? (Indicate how long you have been working on this topic and with this particular student[s])
- Of what significance is this invention/discovery to the existing research or state of the art? (How does it improve upon present technology and why does it deserve to win)?
- What special characteristics and abilities have you noticed about this student (or team)?

**Section F: Statement of Student Enrollment Status**

**SEE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.**

*I CERTIFY THAT THE FOLLOWING STUDENT(S) ARE ENROLLED CURRENTLY OR PREVIOUSLY PER THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:*

_____	_____
<i>(Student inventor)</i>	<i>(Student inventor)</i>
_____	_____
<i>(Student inventor)</i>	<i>(Student inventor)</i>
_____	_____
<i>Advisor Signature</i>	<i>College or University</i>

the collegiate inventors competition®  
2004 student/advisor release form

*The National Inventors Hall of Fame®*, as the administrator of *The Collegiate Inventors Competition®*, has established procedures to prevent the unauthorized disclosure(s) of information submitted by entrants. Nevertheless, it must be recognized that the reviewing and judging process will be conducted by individuals, most of whom will not be connected with *The National Inventors Hall of Fame®*. The winning submissions may be described in certain publications and as part of publicity efforts in connection with the presentation of the awards. In view of these considerations, each entrant and his or her advisor must read and sign this release.

The undersigned student hereby acknowledges that he or she is voluntarily submitting the inventive idea titled \_\_\_\_\_  
to the administrator of The Collegiate Inventors Competition® for award consideration. The undersigned student and the advisor hereby release The National Inventors Hall of Fame®, its board members, and volunteer judges of any of said entities from any and all liabilities in connection with the use or disclosure of any information contained as part of this submission. It is further agreed that in the event the submitted inventive idea is selected for an award, The National Inventors Hall of Fame® shall have the right to use the entrant's name, photograph(s) or other likenesses and a brief description of the inventive idea in publications to the extent it deems appropriate. Notwithstanding this release, no license or any right is granted hereby to The National Inventors Hall of Fame® to use such inventive idea(s) or inventions commercially or to license or grant any rights to them to any third party.

Please be advised that in order to protect the right to obtain patent protection in the United States, the inventor must file a patent application within one year of the date of disclosure or commercial use of the invention. To protect such rights in foreign countries a patent application must be filed before any publication or commercial use. We recommend you begin the patent process immediately. Please see the patent book that is available on the Collegiate Inventors Competition® web site ([www.invent.org/collegiate/](http://www.invent.org/collegiate/)) to guide you in this process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student's name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Advisor's name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Student's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Advisor's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Parent/Guardian signature  
(if student is not 18 or over)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*