

01/16/2025

Dear Dr. Heather Fontanilla,

Please join me in congratulating Joseph Alvarico, educator, and the students at Ygnacio Valley High School, located in Concord, California for being awarded a Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam® grant.

This competitive national grant program is administered by the Lemelson-MIT Program, a sponsored program within the School of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). InvenTeam grants are awarded to teams of high school students across the U.S. who have identified a real-world problem and will develop a technological invention as a solution. This year, **eight InvenTeam grants** have been awarded nationwide.

We invite you to attend the Ygnacio Valley High School InvenTeam's Mid-Grant Technical Review, where students will present their technological solution and how they are applying STEM principles to build their prototype. This invention process continues through June 2025, culminating at our annual celebration, EurekaFest®, where students will present and demonstrate their invention at MIT on June 11th.

Please support these inventive, empathetic, and hard-working high school students. InvenTeam participation fosters a culture within the school and the broader community to solve problems with technological inventions, and often leads to ongoing change at the school site that lives on long after the grant ends. To date, **18 U.S. patents have been issued** for projects stemming from InvenTeams.

I am asking for your support of the Ygnacio Valley High School InvenTeam and their educators to amplify the impact of the grant. Specific ways you can help the students and our program include:

- Generate recognition and encouragement through newsletters, via social media @YVHS_InvenTeam on Instagram, and PR
- Write formal letters and/or provide certificates of recognition to the InvenTeam
- Attend the Ygnacio Valley High School InvenTeam's upcoming Mid-Grant Technical Review on Wednesday, February 26th at 6 p.m. inside Room S2 at Ygnacio Valley High School (755 Oak Grove Rd, Concord, CA 94518)
- Attend EurekaFest on **June 11 at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts**

More information about all eight high school teams and the problems they are solving is attached. Please do not hesitate to contact our Communications Manager, Tracy Jean-Chronberg, at tracyjc@mit.edu with any questions. You may also contact Joseph Alvarico directly at alvaricoj@mdusd.org.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Couch
Executive Director

Address for Sending a Certificate:

Joseph Alvarico
Ygnacio Valley High School
755 Oak Grove Rd, Concord, CA 94518