

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Haddad Gives Send-Off to Young Connecticut Inventors *Students to attend first-ever National ‘Invention Convention’*

Rep. Gregg Haddad (D-Mansfield), along with Governor Malloy and corporate representatives from UTC and Stanley Black & Decker, gave a send-off today from the State Capitol steps to 55 students traveling to the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo (NICEE). The Connecticut inventors in grades four through twelve will travel from the State Capitol to Washington, D.C. to compete at the convention on May 21 at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

“I’m proud to be a longtime supporter of the Invention Convention. It’s a great educational program, and I’m glad to see it being expanded through this national convention,” **Rep. Haddad** said. “It gives students a great sense of pride to be able to take their idea and see it through to a completed product. They really have free license to create what they want and take ownership of their project. It’s also a great way to encourage students’ interest in STEM fields.”

Rep. Haddad is a former board member of the Connecticut Invention Convention. This is the first national competition of the popular program and the first delegation of Connecticut students to be attending and competing. Connecticut's inventors will join more than 260 students from 15 other states at the convention.

The event is organized by the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math linked to Invention and Entrepreneurship (STEMIE) Coalition, a national organization that emerged from the Connecticut Invention Convention. The CEO of the STEMIE Coalition, Danny Briere, is a resident of Mansfield as well as a constituent in Rep. Haddad’s district.

“I wish all of our young inventors the best of luck at the national competition, and I hope this is a memorable experience for them,” **Rep. Haddad** said. “It wouldn’t surprise me if in the not too distant future we’re all using a product invented by a Connecticut student.”

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