

Investing in Kids (ink!) Awarded Grant for Motorola STEM Solutions Project

Two hundred students at Gamble Rogers Middle School will have the opportunity to learn and apply STEM skills beyond the classroom through an Innovation Generation grant from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions Inc.

The Motorola Solutions Foundation provided \$50,000 for a fourth year to challenge Florida's district-wide local education foundations to inspire students through projects designed to help them solve real-world problems in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) areas this school year through a grant to the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations (CFEF).

ink!'s project was one of nine chosen from among 28 applicants to receive \$5,000 through a competitive judging process with each application being reviewed and scored by a panel of STEM industry professionals through the CFEF.

In partnership with Carlisle Interconnect Technologies, the mission of Connecting Kids to STEM with Robotics is to introduce and engage students in STEM via hands-on work with robotics. While not only relevant for the manufacturing industry, robotics experience also fosters problem-solving collaborative projects igniting interest in students of all ages as they prepare for the world of work. Students working with design challenges often discover important connections for the application of math and science to real world problems making these fields more attractive as a potential career path. The "problem challenges," which shape the activities, foster the use of various types of technology within these powerful kits. From the lithium power packs, to the design of the various parts and sensors that can be assembled, students design and problem solve just like real-world engineers, all while having fun. Furthermore, the students will have an opportunity to learn from industry professionals who can provide their expertise and experiences while guiding the students with robotics.

"In 2007, the Motorola Solutions Foundation created the "Innovation Generation Grant" program to support instruction and educational experiences that spark young imaginations and turn their dreams into the innovations that will shape our future. Organizations like ink! are teaching tomorrow's workforce that careers in engineering and technology are not only fun, but also within their reach," said Matt Blakely, director, Motorola Solutions Foundation.