



Major Support from GFCT for MSSEF Programs

The Gelfand Family Charitable Trust (GFCT) has generously supported MSSEF for 8 years!



K-12 students are inspired to learn about science & engineering through their own “real world” research projects.

GFCT’s Support of MSSEF enables inquiry learning and inspires

K-12 student entrepreneurship & innovation through multiple MSSEF programs:

- **MSSEF enables inquiry learning and inspires K-12 student entrepreneurship & innovation:**
 - Promotes science literacy, inquiry learning and student independent research
 - National model for the “Next Generation” national science standards that provide students with direct experience in professional science and engineering practices.
 - Leverages MSSEF’s deep regional networks of schools, districts & teachers
- **MSSEF Core Programs:** focus on students & science educators
 - **Statewide Annual Science & Engineering Fairs -- Showcase & Competitions:** High School & Middle School Annual Culminating Events: thousands of MA students in hundreds of schools participate each year.
 - **Support and Leadership of MA Regional Science Fairs**
 - **MA Delegation to the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF)**
 - **Resources for students & teachers** working on independent research projects
- **Diversity works!** 42% of MSSEF schools are in high-needs districts, raising the bar in underperforming schools; Student gender breakdown is equal.
- **Supports goals of the Massachusetts STEM Plan:** increasing student interest, preparation and achievement in STEM; professional development for STEM teachers; community involvement –through statewide program for schools and science teachers.
- **Building the future innovation workforce:** “Over 50% of responding MSSEF alumni report sustained successful careers in science & technology” (survey).
 - Embed 21st century skills into science curricula
 - Attract brightest and best—the next/gen of innovation leaders
- **GFCT is Major Sponsor of MSSEF’s Curious Minds Initiative (CMI):** creating a culture of inquiry, research and science fairs in MA schools
 - **Inquiry & Science Fairs** inspire students
 - **GEMS Collaboration** provides STEM resources & supports 30+ MA schools (over 75% in high-needs districts)
 - **GEMS Awards** to students & schools.
 - **CMI’s three graduate-credit courses** enable highly effective STEM teachers
 - **STEM Certificate in Science & Engineering Practices** - partnership with Framingham State University.
- **Comments from MSSEF alumni:**
 - “A life-forming experience”
 - “Allowed me to go to college”
 - “I was constructing my future.”
- **Best Practices based on research:** MSSEF programs meet or exceed criteria for effective programs: meaningful, measurable, scalable, sustainable, cost-effective and regional.
- **Principal sponsors:** GFCT joins over 100 science & technology companies, higher education institutions, foundations, professional organizations & private donors in supporting MSSEF. GFCT’s support for the work of the entire organization is greatly appreciated!

MSSEF, Inc. is a Federal tax-exempt organization under Federal law 501(C)(3).

About MSSEF!

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Through Science Fair Programs, students learn to think the way a professional scientist does. Students “own” their research and become inspired to persevere in solving a problem that truly interests them. Science becomes meaningful and cool.



Mission

- Enable every student to experience inquiry-based learning through the development of science and engineering research projects, and to showcase and celebrate their work and learning.

History

- Founded in 1949 by American Academy of Arts & Sciences, MIT professors & other science educators
- Celebrating our 65th anniversary!
- Six decades+, advanced science literacy & inspired new generations of science & engineering leaders
- Nonprofit, charitable tax-exempt organization *under Federal law 501(C)(3)*.

MSSEF Programs

- Invest in schools, teachers and students to enable every student to develop STEM competencies, and to inspire the next generation of science and engineering leaders.
- Develop students' life & career skills that are an essential part of the new 2014 national “Next Generation” science standards.
- Impact thousands of students annually through “real world” inquiry-based learning activities in and beyond the classroom.
- Provide leadership and support to a network of twelve Regional Science Fair Centers in Massachusetts.
- Support selected students with the most outstanding scientific research and engineering design projects to participate in year-end statewide Science Fair showcase events (high school & middle school leagues).
- Create exciting competitions that award over \$500K in scholarships and prizes to students each year.
- Recognize 40% of MSSEF students for research excellence.
- Sponsor MA delegation to annual International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF) sponsored by Intel Corp. 2014 ISEF: The Top/Grand Prize Winner -- an MSSEF participant (Nathan Han from Boston Latin School).
- Facilitate a culture of inquiry & research in schools through the Curious Minds Initiative, which provides professional development for STEM teachers, mentoring for students & resources for schools.

