

By: Senator(s) England, Barnett, Butler
(38th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SHAWN CHESSER AND
2 THE STUDENTS OF EAST CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL IN JACKSON COUNTY,
3 MISSISSIPPI, FOR BEING AWARDED A LEMELSON-MIT INVENTEAM GRANT FOR
4 DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY INVENTION AS A SOLUTION TO REAL-WORLD
5 PROBLEMS.

6 WHEREAS, we join the national technology community and the
7 citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast in congratulating Shawn
8 Chesser and the students at East Central High School in Jackson
9 County, Mississippi, for being awarded a Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam
10 Grant. These students from East Central High School are being
11 recognized nationally for their ideas to effect change in their
12 local community using STEM education; and

13 WHEREAS, from a pool of more than 1,000 students, East
14 Central High School's Science Club has been selected as one of 100
15 state winners in the 12th Annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow
16 Contest. As a state winner, East Central High School will receive
17 \$6,500.00 as well as a video kit to help them with the next phase
18 of the contest. Science Teacher Shawn Chesser said, "It's the
19 students. I mean, I'm just proud of them as I can be. The work



20 that they've put into this is amazing." The nationwide
21 competition challenges students in grades six through 12 to use
22 STEM skills to address real-world issues in their communities; and

23 WHEREAS, for the competition, the nine members of the Science
24 Club designed a portable wildfire emergency shelter that is
25 fire-resistant, insulated and compact enough to be stored easily.
26 According to statesasrisk.org, nearly 1.7 million people in
27 Mississippi or 57% of the state's population are at an elevated
28 risk of wildfire. This shelter is designed to protect multiple
29 people during an emergency situation. Tenth-grader Kameryn
30 Bardwell said, "We really found a passion in this wildfire issue
31 and bringing to light that the wildfire issue is not just in the
32 west but that it's throughout the United States and throughout the
33 world"; and

34 WHEREAS, in the next phase of the competition, ten national
35 finalist schools will be selected to participate in a pitch event
36 where they will present their project to a panel of judges. Seven
37 of these schools will be awarded \$50,000.00 in technology and
38 prizes, while the remaining three will be named National Winners
39 and will be given \$100,000.00. Tenth-grader Avery Rogers said,
40 "It's not common that our school gets called out for these great
41 things because it's such a small school. Being able to be
42 recognized for this is very good"; and

43 WHEREAS, this competitive national grant program is
44 administered by the Lemelson-MIT Program, a sponsored program



45 within the School of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of
46 Technology (MIT); and

47 WHEREAS, InvenTeam grants are given to teams of high school
48 students across the U.S. who are tasked with identifying a
49 real-world problem and developing a technological invention as a
50 solution. This year, eight InvenTeam grants have been given to
51 high school groups nationwide. This process continues through
52 June, culminating at the annual celebration, EurekaFest, which
53 takes place on the MIT campus; and

54 WHEREAS, InvenTeam participation fosters an inventive culture
55 within the school and the broader community, and often leads to
56 ongoing change at the school site that lives on long after the
57 grant ends. To date, 12 U.S. patents have been issued for
58 projects stemming from InvenTeams; and

59 WHEREAS, the members of the 2021-2022 East Central High
60 School Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam are: Kameryn Bardwell, Madelyn
61 Bardwell, Breland Graves, Avery Rogers, Ann Elise Kuy, Leah Rice,
62 Grant Wilson, Brett Killingsworth and Gage Goff; and
63 Teacher/Sponsor of Science Club, Shawn Chesser; and

64 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this group
65 of advanced Mississippi students and their teachers who have
66 brought honor to their school, their community and to the State of
67 Mississippi:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
69 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Science



70 Teacher Shawn Chesser and the students of East Central High School
71 in Jackson County, Mississippi, for being awarded a Lemelson-MIT
72 InventTeam Grant for developing technology invention as a solution
73 to real-world problems, and extend our best wishes to the
74 InventTeam and their teachers, parents and sponsors for future
75 success.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
77 the East Central High School InventTeam and Shawn Chesser,
78 forwarded to the Board of Trustees of the Jackson County School
79 District and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

