



## **Chartiers Valley High School Seniors Named Top Winners in 2014 Smithsonian-Cricket™ Media Global Kids Invention Challenge**

*Six teens win top honors, patent filing, for their energy efficient dual-bladed wind turbine technology invention.*

**WASHINGTON, DC – June 17, 2014** – When the Chartiers Valley School District received a grant to explore alternative energy sources, the district’s middle school erected a windmill to help power a sign in front of the building. Noting that this windmill takes more wind power than they thought to spin the blades and generate power, a team of Chartiers Valley High School seniors figured that if they could reduce the amount of wind needed to power the blades, they could make a new and more energy-efficient wind turbine for home use. Their invention, the TwinBine, does exactly that by using two blades instead of one to double the surface area of the device and more efficiently harness wind for energy.

Judges of the 2014 Smithsonian-Cricket Media Global Kids Invention Challenge were greatly impressed by this real-world clean energy solution, awarding Top Winner status to the Sigma Six development team of Calvin Boyle, Tyler Frank, Kyle Hicken, Ross Manganaro, Paul Novelli, and Brandon Robinson. The team invention was additionally recognized by the Challenge’s sponsoring law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP, which filed a patent for the invention in the names of the six student developers.

The TwinBine was also voted the ePals Choice Award Winner, with more than 700,000 votes from visitors to the Invention Challenge page at the Cricket Media ePals Global Community site (<http://challenges.epals.com/winners/>).

The young inventors worked under the guidance of Chris Sherman, who teaches Applied Engineering and Design courses at CVHS. “The team used a mixture of high-and low-tech tools, combining 3D modeling software and good old fashioned notebooks,” says Sherman, who is proud that the boys applied the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) skills so crucial to the entrepreneurial global economy. The boys branded their invention the Six Sigma and created a poster to market it.

“In this third annual global Invent It! Challenge, we asked kids to channel their inner-inventors by thinking about a real world problem and coming up with a solution,” says Joan Auchter, Cricket Media Chief Learning Officer.” We were very impressed with the high quality of the student inventions, such as the Six Sigma team’s, and the awareness and thought that went into developing them.”

The annual challenge, which is open to all kindergarten- through- 12<sup>th</sup> -grade students internationally, seeks to inspire and empower kids and promote 21<sup>st</sup> century entrepreneurial skills. Winning inventions, which can be seen here <http://challenges.epals.com/winners/>, span ages six through 18 and focus on safety, quality of life and the environment.

Among the other Challenge winners are: a solar-powered light-up dog leash; a pet tick remover; a school bus tracker for parents; an object recognition device for the visually-impaired; a steam-powered lawn mower and other imaginative and innovative creations.

The challenge is sponsored by Cricket™ Media, an education media company and global social learning network, and the Smithsonian's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation's Spark!Lab. This year's prizes include Camp Invention summer scholarships, Smithsonian book sets, LEGO products, and patent filings by sponsoring law firm Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP.

The 2015 Global Kids Invention Challenge will begin accepting submissions in early winter of 2015, with rules, guidelines and other details posted at the Cricket Media's website at [www.cricketmedia.com](http://www.cricketmedia.com). All teachers and parents and young inventors welcome!

#### **About Cricket Media**

Cricket Media (TSXV: CKT) is an education media company that provides award-winning content on a safe and secure learning network for children, families and teachers across the world. Cricket Media's 14 popular media brands for toddlers to teens include Babybug, Ladybug, Cricket® and Cobblestone® with multiple language editions and apps in English, Spanish and Chinese. The Company's innovative web-based K12 tools for school and home include the ePals community and virtual classroom for global collaboration as well as In2Books®, a Common Core eMentoring program that builds reading, writing and critical thinking skills. Cricket Media serves approximately one million classrooms and millions of teachers, students and parents in over 200 countries and territories through its platform and NeuPals, its joint venture with China's leading IT services company Neusoft. Cricket Media also licenses its content and platform to top publishing and educational companies worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.Cricketmag.com](http://www.Cricketmag.com), [www.ePals.com](http://www.ePals.com) and [www.In2Books.com](http://www.In2Books.com).

#### **About Spark!Lab**

Spark!Lab is a hands-on invention activity space operated by the Jerome and Dorothy Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation (<http://invention.smithsonian.org>) at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. The Lemelson Center's mission is to document, interpret and disseminate information about invention and innovation, to encourage creativity in young people, and to foster an appreciation for the central role of invention and innovation in the history of the United States. Spark!Lab will reopen at the Museum in Summer 2015.

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