The Young Innovators to Watch Scholarship Program awards students (age 13-18) for original technology projects, inventions, or discoveries. A group of experts in tech education and entrepreneurship judge the work on a well-rounded set of criteria.

Since its inception in 2014, the program has awarded more than 50 scholarships to students who have gone on to win patents, start their own companies, gain entrance to the best computer science and engineering programs, and forge new business partnerships.

We Celebrate the Youngest Entrepreneurs and Innovators

Open to residents of US, Canada & Mexico only.
Students’ contributions are recognized on social media, video, and print in an omnichannel program.

Students continue to mentor next-gen applicants.

Economic, gender, and racial diversity of applicants and winners is evident.

Early winners now attend Harvard, MIT, Stanford and others

Seven have started and funded their own business

Winners have gone on to win the MIT entrepreneurial competition, give TEDx Talks, be featured in international press and documentaries

Winners feel a terrific allegiance to their supporters
WHY AN AWARD FOR YOUNG INNOVATORS?

Research indicates that students in junior high and high school often lose interest in science and technology, often because of peer pressure.

By rewarding the efforts of budding entrepreneurs during large technology conferences we allow them to see their own place in the technology ecosystem.

**Shortage of teachers in sciences & STEM**
43% of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) vacancies are proving difficult to fill.

**What kids do at a young age sets them apart**
There’s a misguided conception that students who begin with an interest in science will maintain that interest.

**Importance of a Mentor**
Role models, mentors and seeing “live innovation” reinforces students' love of technology.

**Early Success**
The winners return home to their schools and are seen as community leaders

**Loyalty**
They remain loyal to their supporters
ELEMENETS OF THE PROGRAM

• Online application with video and teacher recommendation.
• Applications populate the YITW website and social media campaign begins.
• Judges -- experts in education, computer science and coding, and entrepreneurship weigh in on final vote.
• Winners visit CES (with parents or teachers if under the age of 18) for an awards ceremony and curated tour of exhibitions.

“I just wanted to thank you so much for the opportunity you gave me. You’ve really opened up my eyes to a new world. I will stay motivated to work even harder in college and beyond.”

– Ben Liu, Age 17, creator of FluoroSpark, an RNA-based testing kit for early disease detection.

“Thank you for giving me the experience of a lifetime. Being at CES gave me the opportunity to meet people I never would have met otherwise.”

– Tanesha Bassan, Age 17, Quantum Computing.
WHAT HAPPENS AT CES?

- Awards ceremony
- White paper presentation
- Curated tour
- Post award PR, media and photo opps
- Filming Sponsor Luncheon
55 SCHOLARSHIPS LATER
Lessons Learned

- Stories of Young Entrepreneurs strike a chord with viewers, readers and audience
- GenZ are natural problem solvers often motivated by social good
- They have poise, can find resources and have a can do attitude beyond their years
- They love being in the thick of the tech-world seeing startups, meeting famous CEOs and feeling engaged with the tech industry
- They have good parents, good mentors and an environment that provides positive feedback
IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I’m extremely proud of these students who are driven to innovate and further improve our society. Projects from these forward-thinking students inspire me to continue innovating and working for smarter cities.”
- Miguel Gamiño, Jr., CTO of NYC. – a

It's been truly an amazing experience and I've learned so much. I cannot stop thinking about all of the amazing technology I was exposed to. You've really opened up my eyes to a new world and, I will stay motivated to work even harder in college and beyond. Thanks.
- Karishma Muthukumar, Age 17, creator of OutLoud, an emoji-based keyboard
Varun Shenoy
Theia
After an operation, most patients don’t go back to see the doctor until 14 days after their procedure, but surgical wounds can cause big problems before that. Varun Shenoy developed Theia, an app that uses AI to analyze photos of post-operative wounds and evaluate them for normalcy. Users can track the wound, their exercise, dressing changes and medicine, and the app can let them know immediately if there’s a problem in the healing process.
http://varunshenoy.com/theia

Benjamin Liu
The Fluorospark Chip
Benjamin Liu developed Fluorospark, an inexpensive blood filtering kit, after losing an aunt to stage IV colon cancer. The Fluorospark system captures RNA and amplifies it to show abnormalities. Liu’s creation is the first step to creating a handheld device, completely independent of external apparatus, for the diagnosis of hundreds of infectious diseases.

Emily Kiehl
Project Purple
Realizing that popular methods of treating childhood amblyopia (or lazy eye) were uncomfortable and unpleasant for children, Emily Kiehl and Radu Vasilescu created Project Purple, a virtual reality game that trains and strengthens the eye, addressing the condition.

Vishanth Thangavelautham, 17
HotSpot
App called HotSpot that uses blockchain technology to allow users to create guest networks on their Wi-Fi and get paid for letting others use it. The goal of HotSpot is to have cheap and accessible Wi-Fi no matter where you are in the world.
MEET SOME OF OUR YOUNG INNOVATORS
and their creations

Tanay Tandon
Clipped

Tanay is in his second year at Stanford University studying computer science. He has begun productizing Athelas, a machine-learning based blood diagnostics device that he created at Stanford. The start-up is currently in the FDA clearance process and has raised more than $3 million in venture funding. The device began shipping in January to clinics and patients, and they hope to begin mass production and deployments of the blood testing device soon.

Brandon Boynton
BullyBøx

In 2015 Brandon created his work with the BullyBøx, an anonymous reporting app for kids to report instances of bullying. His consulting firm MostBeastlyStudios has grown substantially, and he's currently launching a new startup that helps with apartment amenities. The company is in its market analysis phase, busy presenting the concept to apartment properties in the area to gauge market demand.

Micah Green
MaidBot

Micah was 17 when he won Young Innovators for creating an industrial sized vacuuming robot with AI smarts built in. Today, at 18, MaidBot is a 17 person company busy commercializing the product.

Emma Yang
Timeless

Emma was 12 when she wrote an app to help her Grandmother, who suffered from dementia, rekindle memories. At 13 she just gave her first TED talk about coding and power.
MEET SOME OF OUR YOUNG INNOVATORS
and their creations

Kumaran Akilan, 18
Lumen

Lumen, a low-cost smartphone based retinal scan to diagnose Alzheimer’s disease. To diagnose a patient, the visoScope lens is clipped onto the smartphone. An image of the subject’s retina is then sent to a server and a diagnosis is returned within minutes. The app is still being built and the open source models of the visoScope are still being modified for usage however the algorithm has been completed and shows promising results.

Sara Sakowitz, 19
Blue Moon Box

“Blue Moon Box: The Monthly Science Kit Subscription Service for Kids.” Each month, the kids receive a box filled with science experiments and create projects that engage them creatively and excite them with the magic of science.

Raquel Hosein, 18
Brooklyn College

“Application of a Wireless Electrical Device for the Detection of Epilepsy.” A wireless device that when integrated with mobile devices can help detect when an epileptic seizure may occur. The wireless device has a Bluetooth chip and analog to digital converter, a biosignal receptor and a power source; it can send real-time pre-seizure wave data to smart technology.
## SPONSORSHIP

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ABOUT LIVING IN DIGITAL TIMES

Living in Digital Times (LIDT) is an affiliate partner of CTA, the largest consumer technology event of its kind, with over 175,000 annual attendees every January in Las Vegas.

LIDT is a leading a partner program for CES, developing conferences, exhibits, and contests that focus on the intersection of life and technology.

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'Young Innovators' research high-tech solutions to lazy eye

Chuck Gibson, loveland@communitypress.com Published 2:22 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2018 | Updated 2:48 p.m. ET Jan. 31, 2018

Emily Keishi saw the color purple for the first time as a Loveland High School freshman. She was working with her lab partner Radu Vasilescu in their freshman biology class.

"Our lab was on cells, and we were tinting the cells purple and learning about them," Vasilescu said. "Suddenly Emily looked up, stared me dead in the eye and said: 'Is that purple?' She was seeing the word with new eyes.

Crescenta Valley High senior named one of five ‘Young Innovators to Watch’

By Andrew J. Campa | Jan 30, 2019 | 3:53 PM

Crescenta Valley High senior Lynce Co Ting Keh, 17, was named one of the “Young Innovators to Watch” and will be featured at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas on Thursday. Co Ting Keh works on legal apps to help research in Cancer of Unknown Primary (CUP). (John Barger | Staff Photographer)

In an interview Co Ting Keh said he needed validation he was, indeed, young and innovative, so the senior will soon receive more than his share of confirmation.

Co Ting Keh, 17, was named one of five “Young Innovators to Watch” from the United States and Canada by technology and lifestyle event producers Living in Digital Times, and is heading to Las Vegas to be honored at a giant consumer electronics show produced by Living in Digital Times on Thursday.

Tesoro senior’s vision for glaucoma app wins national recognition

NEWS LOCAL NEWS

Tesoro senior’s vision for glaucoma app wins national recognition

Locked-In Syndrome; and Benjamin is developing a chip device for analysis of RNA-