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## US2020 RECOGNIZES STEM MENTORING AWARD RECIPIENTS AT THE WHITE HOUSE COMPLEX

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This morning, US2020 announced the winners of the 2015 STEM Mentoring Awards – a competition launched earlier this year at the White House Science Fair. This afternoon at the White House complex, US2020 and Co-Founding Sponsors [Chevron](#) and [Tata Consultancy Services](#) (TCS), will recognize the winners for their exceptional work in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) mentoring.

The 2015 STEM Mentoring Awards winners will be recognized today in conjunction with the first US2020 STEM Mentoring Symposium sponsored by US2020 founding co-investor, [SanDisk](#) Corporation (NASDAQ: [SNDK](#)). The Symposium will bring together leaders from the public, private, and social sectors to discuss common challenges, share best practices, and reaffirm STEM Mentoring as a powerful tool for education reform.

The STEM Mentoring Awards included the *Most Innovative Hands-On Project*, adjudicated by a panel of public and private sector leaders in STEM. They also included *Excellence in Volunteer Experience* and *Excellence in Corporate Culture*; two award categories that utilized qualitative and quantitative data gathered through US2020's evaluation tools.

This year's winners are: the [Chicago Student Invention Convention](#) and [University City Science Center FirstHand](#) for *Most Innovative Hands-On Project*; [Iridescent](#) and [We Teach Science](#) for *Excellence in Volunteer Experience*; and [IBM](#) and [NetApp](#) for *Excellence in Corporate Culture*.

For the inaugural STEM Mentoring Awards, US2020 - a division of Citizen Schools- received submissions from more than 80 organizations in 30 cities representing 13 states across the country. "We were thrilled and humbled by the number and quality of responses received," said Nick Hutchinson, Executive Director of US2020. "Because of the support from Chevron and TCS, we've been able to surface exceptional work and ensure a focus on quality as US2020 and our partners work to scale the STEM Mentoring movement."

Most Innovative Hands-on Project winner Chicago Student Invention Convention inspires curiosity, confidence, and creative problem solving in youth. Their free, flexible program empowers K-8 students to identify and solve real life issues through designing and prototyping inventions. Winner FirstHand brings classroom lessons to life for underserved students in real-life lab environments through engaging projects like making and building with polymers and DNA "selfies." Their goal is to spark and nurture a lifelong interest in STEAM and to grow and diversify the STEM career pipeline.

Excellence in Volunteer Experience winner Iridescent inspires underserved youth to develop curiosity, creativity, and persistence. Iridescent's [Curiosity Machine](#) program connects K-12 children with volunteer scientists and engineers to solve open-ended, real life inspired engineering design challenges through an online platform. Winner We Teach Science connects underserved middle and high school students with STEM professionals for remote tutoring and mentoring (RTM) sessions. The RTM program

help students at risk of failing math succeed through increased exposure to math, individual attention, and exposure to science and math uses outside of the classroom.

[Discovery Communications](#), US2020's national media and communications partner, is providing in-kind services for select winning organizations and leveraging its media suite to recognize all the winners and to raise awareness about the STEM Mentoring Movement.

In the Excellence in Corporate Culture category, [IBM](#) was recognized for its STEM mentorship efforts in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. IBM is an integrated technology and consulting company with operations in more than 170 countries. In Baton Rouge, IBM employees -- empowered and dedicated to service -- mentored 6<sup>th</sup> grade students using the engineering design process in a challenge to design a shipping container home. [NetApp](#) was recognized for its volunteer efforts in Wichita, Kansas. Leading organizations worldwide count on NetApp for software, systems, and services to manage and store their data. Honoring the company's commitment to benefiting the communities in which employees live and work, NetApp employees in Wichita provided yearlong mentorship for high school seniors and led computer programming and software engineering clubs for the [Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland](#).

US2020 also announced Finalists for each award category: [ACE Mentor Program of Eastern PA](#); [Eurekus](#); [Iridescent](#); [Lighting for Literacy](#); [Marbles Kids Museum](#); and [Philadelphia Youth Network](#) for *Most Innovative Hands-on Project*; [iPraxis](#); [Spark Program](#); and [University City Science Center FirstHand](#) for *Excellence in Volunteer Experience*; and [First Internet Bank of Indiana](#) for *Excellence in Corporate Culture*.

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### ***About US2020***

*US2020, a division of Citizen Schools, developed from a White House call to generate large-scale, innovative solutions to our STEM education challenges. Its mission is to dramatically scale the number of STEM professionals mentoring and teaching students through hands-on projects with a focus on serving underrepresented communities -- girls, underrepresented minorities, and low-income children. US2020 is supported by national Co-Investors: Alcoa, CA Technologies, Chevron, Cisco, Cognizant, Discovery Communications, Raytheon, SanDisk, Tata Consultancy Services, and Texas Instruments, as well as the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Through partnerships at the national level and coalitions at the city level, US2020 has built a network of more than 250 organizations in 13 cities actively working to scale the STEM mentoring field, to align the field on common metrics, and to advance a focus on quality. To learn more, visit <http://www.us2020.org>.*

### ***About Citizen Schools***

*Citizen Schools is a national nonprofit organization that partners with middle schools to expand the learning day for children in low-income communities. Citizen Schools mobilizes a team of AmeriCorps educators and volunteer "Citizen Teachers" to teach real-world learning projects and provide academic support in order to help all students discover and achieve their dreams. For more information, please visit <http://www.citizenschools.org/>.*