

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HEARTHSTONE IS NAMED WISCONSIN'S AFFILIATE FOR THE STEMIE COALITION and LAUNCHES STEMIE CURRICULA FOR AREA SCHOOLS.**

21 August 2019

Friends of Hearthstone, Inc. (Appleton, WI) has announced that Hearthstone Historic House Museum is now the Wisconsin affiliate of the STEMIE Coalition (Dearborn, MI). Through its affiliation with STEMIE, Hearthstone will foster use of the organization's K-12 "Invention Convention Curriculum presented by Black & Decker" in area schools. The curricula layer upon basic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education the ideas of Invention and Entrepreneurship (STEM + I + E) to develop problem-identification, problem-solving, entrepreneurship, creativity, and communication. Hearthstone's efforts throughout Northeastern Wisconsin and across the state are supported by the Bemis Company Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Bemis Company (Neenah, WI).

The STEMIE Coalition's K-12 Invention Convention Curriculum presented by Stanley Black & Decker is a free, online set of curricula that launched in June. The curricula are available for four grade groups: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. The curricula follow the seven steps of the Invention Process: Identifying, Understanding, Ideating, Designing, Building, Testing, and Communicating. The curricula are open access, meaning they can be used entirely free of charge. Each curriculum is thoroughly vetted to ensure that the content aligns with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Each will be regularly updated by curricula experts. Through its lesson plans, STEMIE teaches the Scientific Process, the Engineering Design Process, the Invention Process, and the Entrepreneurship Process as pillars of innovation to help students become "future-ready."

As part of this effort, Hearthstone will also initiate and host local and a state-wide "Invention Conventions" to recognize outstanding achievements in student-developed innovation. Winners of local and state-wide conventions will be eligible to participate in the STEMIE Coalition's National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo (NICEE). NICEE is the first nation-wide annual celebration of K-12 inventors from across the U.S. STEMIE Coalition's 4th annual K-12 National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo presented by United Technologies Corporation will take place at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn, Michigan from May 30 to June 2, 2019.

The NICEE is an in-person opportunity for young inventors in grades 3-12 to display their creative and critical thinking skills through inventing, innovating, and entrepreneurial activities.

Bemis Company, Inc. is a supplier of flexible and rigid plastic packaging used by leading food, consumer products, healthcare, and other companies worldwide. Bemis has long supported STEM education and teacher training in schools where Bemis has facilities in the U.S.

According to George M. Schroeder, Hearthstone's Executive Director, "Hearthstone is an excellent organization to serve as the Wisconsin affiliate for STEMIE. Hearthstone was literally built upon technology invented by Thomas Edison, recognized as one of history's greatest inventive geniuses, and on the entrepreneurship of Henry Rogers, a seminal figure in Appleton's history and in the history of industry in the Fox River Valley, who as a businessman constantly searched for new ideas to bring to his community."

"In recognition of the role these two visionaries played in invention and entrepreneurship, Hearthstone will award 'Edison-Rogers Prizes' to local winners of the Invention Convention," Schroeder continues. He adds, "Hearthstone has had education as part of its mission since its inception as an institution in 1986. Our student involvement and education programs will expand dramatically through our affiliation with STEMIE. We look forward to helping students in STEMIE programs translate their newly acquired skills into unlimited future possibilities."

The STEMIE curricula can be used in a variety of ways. These include: Being taught in the classroom as part of school day lesson plans; used as a basis for co-curricular activities in schools; or used as after-school or weekend activities in non-school settings by other organizations. "Being open source and free to use means that EVERY student in grades K-12 can have access to the curricula and its benefits," says Schroeder. Hearthstone currently works with area schools as part of their second grade curriculum. Area second graders use Hearthstone created lessons and tour the residence to learn about electricity and Appleton history. Schroeder adds, "Education has been a part of Hearthstone for 32 years."

As an initial step, Hearthstone is exploring use of STEMIE curricula for 6-8 graders with the Appleton Area School District at its Kaleidoscope Academy located in the historic Roosevelt Junior High building. Hearthstone is seeking involvement from other systems and organizations. It welcomes inquiries regarding use of the STEMIE curricula and/or participation in the Wisconsin Invention Convention. Hearthstone will provide professional development programs this Fall for interested educators.

Additional information can be found on Hearthstone's website ([www.hearthstonemuseum.org](http://www.hearthstonemuseum.org)). A website for Wisconsin Invention Convention ([www.WisconsinInventionConvention.org](http://www.WisconsinInventionConvention.org)) will be unveiled in September.

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### **About Hearthstone Historic House Museum**

Hearthstone Historic House Museum is nationally renowned historic site of international significance. Hearthstone was at the center of a pivotal moment in history in the United States - the dawning of electrification, a scientific and technological advancement that had arguably one of the most profound impacts on American life. Hearthstone was the first residence to be incandescently lit by a hydroelectric central power station using Edison technology. The switch was thrown on September 30, 1882 just two weeks after the first-ever Edison central station, which was powered by steam, was operational in New York City. Electrification of Hearthstone and local industry was realized by Henry J. Rogers, an entrepreneur and visionary. Beyond its technological significance, Hearthstone is a truly exceptional example of Queen Anne style residential architecture. It is one of the few residences in the state exhibiting an elite level of exterior design and richness of interior design, finishes, and furnishings. The house still contains the original Edison electroliers and other original light fixtures, original light switches, and some of the world's only examples of original Edison wiring in situ. Hearthstone Historic House Museum is operated by Friends of Hearthstone, Inc., a 501 (c) 3 public charity. More information about Hearthstone is available at its website, [www.hearthstonemuseum.org](http://www.hearthstonemuseum.org).

### **About the STEMIE Coalition and the NICEE**

The STEMIE Coalition (STEMIE), an initiative that emerged from the principles of the highly successful 33-year old Connecticut Invention Convention, was founded to elevate K-12 invention and entrepreneurship education to a national level. The STEMIE (STEM + Invention + Entrepreneurship) Coalition makes an extensive, immediate, and measurable impact on youth invention and entrepreneurship by being an umbrella organization that "rolls up" efforts of 600 concurrently operating K-12 youth invention and entrepreneurship programs across the U.S. The STEMIE Coalition shares best

practices, evaluates programs, and provides national data that demonstrates invention and entrepreneurship are important parts of student learning and development.

More information about The STEMIE Coalition and the National Invention Convention and Entrepreneurship Expo presented by United Technologies Corporation is available at its website, [www.stemie.org](http://www.stemie.org).

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### **About Bemis Corporation**

Bemis Company, Inc. ("Bemis") is a supplier of flexible and rigid plastic packaging used by leading food, consumer products, healthcare, and other companies worldwide. Founded in 1858, Bemis reported 2017 net sales of US\$4.0 billion. Bemis has a strong technical base in polymer chemistry, film extrusion, coating and laminating, printing, and converting. Headquartered in Neenah, Wisconsin, Bemis employs approximately 16,000 individuals worldwide. More information about Bemis is available at its website, [www.Bemis.com](http://www.Bemis.com).