

March 1, 2016

## **For Immediate Release:**

### **iSchool for the Future to inspire Compassionate Innovation at USA Science and Engineering Festival**

*Children, adults will love hands-on STEM activities while growing their minds*



*A young student makes music using computer programming, a MakeyMakey, and tools such as a hammer*

Washington, DC: Visitors to the USA Science and Engineering Festival will be in for a treat when they stop by the iSchool for the Future booth, #1454 in Hall ABC. Visitors will use interesting items like fruit to make music and let loose a magnetic train on a coil of copper. They will release twirling choppers and beat their parents at a math game! These activities will be hands-on, fun, and creative. Children will be encouraged to think about how everyday materials can be used to inspire Compassionate Innovation.

Activities at iSchool's booth will illustrate the organization's signature "Creative STEM" programming, which combines STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) with Art and 21st Century Social and Emotional Life Skills. iSchool's Creative STEM programming and exclusive 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life Skills curriculum is the brainchild of Great Falls resident Nuria Gabitova and Falls Church resident Anuradha Gupta.



*Children will explore the world of electromagnetism, and while doing so, learn about Growth Mindset*

### *Compassionate Innovation Through Creative STEM*

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iSchool's booth will feature fun and educational engineering, physics, and math. Visitors will be amazed to see they can create their own motors out of batteries and magnets, and will love letting loose a magnetic train that zooms around a coil made out of copper wire. They will also be fascinated by moving sculptures made from the same materials. While learning about these materials, visitors will be encouraged to have a Growth Mindset, an essential 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life Skill.

Creativity and innovation will be encouraged as visitors make music on our Fruit Piano. The piano will use a MakeyMakey, which is a small circuit board that turns objects into buttons on a computer by creating electrical circuits.



*A child expressed joy while flying his paper "Chopper"*

Children will use simple materials like paper to make complex machines like helicopter "Choppers". A math game will celebrate each visitor's knowledge of math in a personalized and age-appropriate way.

iSchool's community events have received excellent reviews from visitors. After a 2015 Science Night at an elementary school, a teacher said: "The students had great fun and learned some great engineering and math lessons at the same time." iSchool events are designed to appeal to all different learning styles and every activity features a hands-on component, written materials, pictures and drawings, and an engaging adult Volunteer.

The iSchool approach is effective at helping children and adults learn. "I am not an educator, but I am always learning something new. From that experience I have found that learning is much more effective when all the senses are engaged and when the information is relevant to our present life. This is what this iSchool has done. Children will never forget what they learned tonight and it was fun!" said a local PTA Co-President after an iSchool event.

[iSchool for the Future](http://www.ischoolforthefuture.org) advocates for the inclusion of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Social and Emotional Life Skills as a formal part of every child's education. iSchool also offers Creative STEM enrichment programs. It works in collaboration with partners to develop programs that are place-based so as to engage students in learning that is relevant to their lives.