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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**Local 11<sup>th</sup> Graders Win Grant to Get Patent on Fire Fighting Invention**

*Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation awards grant to four high school students who created a protective lining for fire fighter uniforms.*

WASHINGTON, DC (August 25, 2015) -- Intellectual Property Owners (IPO) Education Foundation is pleased to announce that its 2015 Conrad Foundation Spirit of Innovation Challenge (SOIC) grant winners are Savannah Cofer and Varun Vallabhaneni of Gahannah, OH and Matthew Sun and Valerie Chen of Centreville, VA, otherwise known as Team FireArmor.

The rising high school seniors joined forces to participate in the Conrad Foundation's Spirit of Innovation Challenge, which asks young people to develop extraordinary and viable solutions to benefit our world. IPO Education Foundation provides a \$5,000 grant each year to one SOIC finalist team to defray costs associated with getting a patent on the team's invention.

Team FireArmor produced a line of protective gear for firefighters which is designed to withstand heat up to 1,000°C. Products currently in use are said to break down beginning at 300°C. A video with more information on FireArmor is available on IPO Education Foundation's website.

The team won the Health and Nutrition Division of the SOIC and now plan to apply for a patent on their invention. They recently told IPO Education Foundation's Innovator Insights, "We quickly concluded that it was essential that we secured the intellectual property rights for...the current FireArmor innovation." The team plans "to test FireArmor on a full scale human model and optimize the thermal protection for each element of firefighter turnout gear" in the near future.

Team FireArmor will be recognized at the IPO Education Foundation Awards Dinner in Washington, DC on December 8. For more information about the IPO Education Foundation and Team FireArmor please contact Robin Muthig at 202-507-4514 or [RMuthig@ipo.org](mailto:RMuthig@ipo.org). To find out more about the Conrad Foundation and the Spirit of Innovation Challenge visit [www.conradchallenge.org](http://www.conradchallenge.org) or contact Gwen Griffin at [gwen@griffincg.com](mailto:gwen@griffincg.com).

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