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ISTI Receives Motorola Solutions Foundation Innovation Generation Grant

Chicago, IL — July 12, 2016 — The Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI) today announced it has received a grant for $40,000 as part of the "Innovation Generation Grant" program from the Motorola Solutions Foundation, the charitable arm of Motorola Solutions, Inc. Through the grant, ISTI will continue to expand STEM Challenges and the Mentor Matching Engine (MME) to bring real world STEM experiences to Illinois' students.

The Innovation Generation program provides awards to organizations, such as ISTI, which foster and support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives for teachers and students (U.S. preschool through university level) — especially girls and underrepresented minorities. This is ISTI's fourth Innovation Generation grant award.

"The support of Motorola Solutions, both financially and in practice, has been essential to the success and growth of ISTI's programs and we are incredibly grateful for their ongoing partnership," said Mark Harris, President and CEO of ISTI. "The Motorola Solutions Foundation has been a driving force to help address the pressing need to connect students with STEM opportunities and cultivate tomorrow's leaders and innovators."

This grant funding will be used to grow and scale ISTI programs, including STEM Challenges and the Mentor Matching Engine (MME), which connect students with STEM professionals and real world STEM experiences. To date, these programs have impacted over 2,000 students across Illinois. This includes students at Chicago Vocational Career Academy, which has deepened its relationship with Motorola Solutions through ISTI programs.

STEM Challenges allow students to help solve authentic problems in the world today. This research and design process develops critical thinking and collaboration skills with peers and mentors. Unlike other school projects, students work alongside STEM professionals to research a problem and design their own solutions. MME is designed for students to connect with experts in the field around their research and interests. MME is a mechanism for project-based mentorship supporting STEM, entrepreneurship, and independent research. In 2015-16, more than half of students impacted by ISTI programs were from demographic groups traditionally underrepresented in STEM– such as women and people of color.

The Motorola Solutions Foundation grant program overall will impact about 1 million students and teachers, each receiving an average of 120 programming hours from our partner non-profit organizations and institutions. Programs will support special populations including girls and women, underrepresented minorities, the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, people with disabilities, and the military.

"The Motorola Solutions Foundation created the Innovation Generation Grant program nine years ago to support educational experiences that spark students to turn their dreams into innovations that will shape our society's future," said Matt Blakely, executive director of the Motorola Solutions Foundation. "Organizations like ISTI are teaching tomorrow's leaders that careers in engineering and technology are both fun and within their reach."

For additional information on the Motorola Solutions Foundation grants programs, visit: http://responsibility.motorolasolutions.com/index.php/solutions-for-community/ and for more information on ISTI please visit http://www.istcoalition.org/the-institute.

About ISTI
We're a STEM-focused non-profit that provides programs and partnerships that connect companies with classrooms. ISTI is for schools and companies who want to impact the next generation of innovators. It is a bridge between the classroom and real world that facilitates collaboration between students and industry mentors. ISTI programs are a departure from the way students typically learn - providing authentic challenge topics and mentoring to prepare students for future STEM careers.

About Motorola Solutions Foundation
The Motorola Solutions Foundation is the charitable and philanthropic arm of Motorola Solutions. With employees located around the globe, Motorola Solutions seeks to benefit the communities where it operates. The company achieves this by making strategic grants, forging strong community partnerships and fostering innovation. The Motorola Solutions Foundation focuses its funding on public safety, disaster relief, employee programs and education, especially science, technology, engineering and math programming. For more information on Motorola Solutions' corporate and foundation giving, visit our website: www.motorolasolutions.com/giving.