



**MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS  
FOUNDATION**

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **ISTI Receives Motorola Solutions Foundation Grant**

Chicago, IL – September 6, 2018 – The Illinois Science & Technology Institute (ISTI), today announced it has received a grant for \$60,000 USD from [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. Motorola Solutions Foundation awards grants each year to organizations, such as ISTI, which support and advance public safety programs and technology and engineering education initiatives.

“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.

This year, Motorola Solutions Foundation grants will support programs that help more than 3 million students, teachers, first responders and community members around the globe. There is a specific focus on providing grants to programs that impact underrepresented populations, including females, minorities, people with disabilities, veterans and others.

“The Motorola Solutions Foundation is honored to and privileged to support the work of the Illinois Science and Technology Institute,” said Matt Blakely, executive director of the Motorola Solutions Foundation. “We believe in organizations that are fostering innovation, building partnerships and driving change, and we’re proud to be part of the positive impact they’re making in communities.”

- For additional information on Motorola Solutions Foundation grants program, visit: [motorolasolutions.com/foundation](https://motorolasolutions.com/foundation)
- For more information on ISTI please visit: <https://www.istcoalition.org/education-programs/>

### **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 the 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 foundation achieves this by making strategic grants, forging strong community partnerships and fostering innovation. Motorola Solutions Foundation focuses its funding on public safety, disaster relief, employee programs and education, especially in science, technology, engineering and math. For more information on Motorola Solutions Corporate and Foundation giving, visit our website: [www.motorolasolutions.com/foundation](https://www.motorolasolutions.com/foundation)