

A Case for Educating U.S. Citizens

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Several times weekly people from all walks of life reach out to the Edison Inventors Association in hopes of finding out what to do with an idea they believe everyone will want to own and will make the inventor rich! Problem is they haven't a clue what to do next! It is a fascinating opportunity that most have little knowledge of.

The United States Patent System envisioned by our founding fathers is responsible for helping our country achieve the worldwide entrepreneurial dominance it has held onto for close to two centuries. Still impressive but suppressed by years of misappropriated patent office funds and bureaucratic mingling, a growing percentage of cutting edge innovations now come from outside the country itself. Still there is hope that invention itself will help elevate the decline to levels of respect as the USPTO modernizes and looks to the future.

Our public and private educational systems need to motivate students to make the most of one of this country's greatest resources! The majority of our adults do not know the first thing about the intrinsic value of their intellectual property and the remarkable opportunity to improve ones self-worth by properly applying it. The proof comes in the form of invention scam companies that rely on emotional hooks rather than sound business judgment. These companies exist because people are not educated with a clear understanding of intellectual property and new product development.

The U.S. is now 10th in the world in science education and 15th in mathematics. We are handing over the tools of invention and innovation to other nations as we rest on the accomplishments that came before us. Complacency is not an option if we wish to remain a great nation.

The entire issue is best described in a quote by B. Edward Schlesingers, Jr., "It is important to recognize that the entire story of civilization is based on invention. Invention is historically one of the strongest driving forces in human affairs. If children can comprehend invention, they can better understand the past and the present and predict the future more reliably."

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