



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Laura Gross, [lgross@scottcircle.com](mailto:lgross@scottcircle.com)  
w: 202-695-8223, c: 202-255-2054

**Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics and Science Achieves AdvancED STEM Certification  
First AdvancED STEM-Certified School in Virginia**

Reston, VA — October 23, 2017—AdvancED congratulates [Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics and Science](#) on receiving AdvancED STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Certification. This achievement is a mark of STEM distinction and excellence only offered to highly effective institutions that prioritize STEM education as a path to success.

AdvancED STEM Certification is the first internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs, signaling the growing emphasis placed on STEM education by educators, politicians and business leaders around the world. In earning this certification, Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics and Science has demonstrated its commitment to preparing its students for their educational and career opportunities of the future by ensuring its students will have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their postsecondary pursuits and as workforce contributors in the 21st-century economy.

In order to earn STEM Certification, Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics and Science had to demonstrate adherence to the AdvancED STEM Standard as reflected by the school's performance across 11 rigorous STEM Indicators. The certification process provides a rigorous evaluation and continuous improvement process, supported by research-based tools and resources. Achieving high scores across the indicators certify that students have been equipped and trained to be innovative, creative and systematic problem-solvers across disciplines.

“We are honored to be Virginia’s first AdvancED STEM Certified School and join less than 100 schools globally with this distinction. This certification is a reflection of Ideaventions Academy’s commitment to preparing students for top colleges and universities and to becoming the leaders of tomorrow. In this age of tremendous technological revolution, struggling educational systems, and changing workforce needs, the STEM certification

acknowledges us as an international model for preparing students for the future with real-world skills and experiences to succeed. It also signals the private-sector that we are committed to exceptional levels of student ability and achievement for their STEM pipeline,” said Ryan Heitz, Head of School. He concluded, “Our certification recognizes our high standards, extraordinary academics, supportive community, and healthy, balanced environment. STEM certification reinforces our path of continuous innovation in gifted and STEM education, achievement in STEM disciplines, and advancement of STEM excellence.”

AdvancED’s STEM Certification Reviewers examined Ideaventions Academy’s evidence of quality STEM education that the school provided to the review team beforehand, and conducted classroom observations focused on identifying student engagement and collaboration in the learning process using the Effective Learning Environment Observation Tool™ (eleot™). Reviewers also interviewed key stakeholders such as school administrators, STEM faculty and staff, parents, students, and external partners in order to verify the school’s commitment to connecting students’ STEM experiences in the classroom to the local community and the world at large.

To learn more about AdvancED STEM Certification, contact AdvancED at [STEMCertification@advanc-ed.org](mailto:STEMCertification@advanc-ed.org). For more background on AdvancED’s products and services that support institutions in their continuous improvement efforts visit [www.advanc-ed.org](http://www.advanc-ed.org).

To learn more about Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics and Science, contact [admissions@ideaventionsacademy.org](mailto:admissions@ideaventionsacademy.org). For more information on Ideaventions Academy academics, to schedule a tour, or see upcoming admissions events, visit [www.ideaventionsacademy.org](http://www.ideaventionsacademy.org).

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### **About Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics and Science**

Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics and Science is an independent school for the gifted, offering grades 4 through 12. Offering a personalized, rigorous, and engaging STEM-focused education, Ideaventions Academy is preparing students for top colleges and to be future leaders in STEM fields. Designed for gifted students, the Academy is an extraordinary environment featuring small class sizes (10 students per class or less), highly advanced academics, expert teachers, a healthy, supportive atmosphere, and a vibrant community life.

### **About AdvancED**

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving the largest community of education professionals in the world. Founded on more than 100 years of work in continuous improvement, AdvancED combines the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change to empower PreK-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential.

AdvancED operates three regional accrediting agencies and serves as a trusted partner to 32,000 schools and school systems—employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 countries.