

Public Hearing Testimony from Christian Briere, March 2, 2015 on behalf of the Connecticut Invention Convention:

My first invention came from a massive, mushroom cloud of flour that plumed to cover much of my kitchen. It was a classic case of kindergartener cooking: one part in the bowl, nine parts outside of the bowl. So when my teacher introduced our class to the Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) – wherein young entrepreneurs invent a solution to their everyday problems – I needed little inspiration. Three months -- and one thankful mom -- later, I won my local Invention Convention with the “Non-Spill Bowl.”

After my first CIC, the world became problems and I sought solutions. Looking at the marvels all around me, I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up, not an astronaut or a baseball player, but an inventor. My entrepreneur-dad and I filled conversations with potential solutions to demanding problems. He illuminated the differences between a product and an invention, between market needs and individual problems.

As I grew, my love of innovation blossomed. I founded companies, filed patents, and even made a robot or two. I can point to thousands of dollars in revenues that went back into the Connecticut economy. Today I continue to follow my passion of innovation, my projects are getting bigger and more meaningful, like helping create the grapple system for an asteroid mining company’s spacecraft, but at the heart I’m still that kid looking to make things a little better in the world. I don’t know who I would be without my love of invention, but I do know that today, I no longer want to grow up to be an inventor ... I am one.

Christian Briere, Senior, E.O. Smith High School, resident of Mansfield, CT.