

NTXINNO

ON THE RISE: Meet NTX Inno's 2020 25 Under 25 Most Innovative Kids



Laiba Mehmood, 17 & Inaya Sheikh, 17
co-founders of CleanItCube

It isn't often that you find high school seniors acting as mentors of startups. However, after joining DiscoverSTEM's Innovation Program in 2018, Frisco ISD students Laiba Mehmood and Inaya Sheikh now act as assistant innovation facilitators at DiscoverSTEM, in part thanks to the startup they created when they first joined the program.

CleanItCube was co-founded by the pair to commercialize a door handle disinfectant product they created. But CleanItCube wasn't created this year, it was invented by the team nearly two years ago. Mehmood and Sheikh are currently working on further developing the product and bringing it to market, as demand for similar types of technology has rapidly increased.



Bilal Ali Shah, 13, inventor

As a middle school student, Bilal Ali Shah enjoys sports and reading about popular science. As a winner of the America's Top Young Scientist award, he enjoys inventions. Already Shah has filed seven patents that are waiting approval, with the help of Plano-based DiscoverSTEM's Innovation Program.

It started with his first idea, Relay Launch System, a way to use relay launch and catch platforms to put satellites in orbit. The idea landed him the first place prize at the NASA Ames Space Settlement Challenge. Shah has followed that up with a string of wins at big name competitions with different ideas, including a geothermal desalination system (which of course is patent pending) that took the top prize at the International Future City Competition.

