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US AWARD FOR BROS WHO MADE STUDENTS INNOVATORS

PATNA: Two brothers from Patna – Mirza Rizwan and Mirza Faizan - have been selected for prestigious national award of the US, “The George Washington Honor Medal, by the Freedom Foundation.

They have been selected for the award in recognition to their efforts to inculcate innovative skills in school students through their innovation programme, christened DiscoverSTEM. The Mirza brothers said they have mentored around 200 students from the USA, Australia, India, China, Mexico and Middle-East among other countries at the DiscoverSTEM innovation lab at Dallas, Texas, which has been co-founded by the duo.



Rizwan, who is presently in Bengaluru, has developed few course models, which are delivered to students in the US by his brother Faizan through DiscoverSTEM. Under this module, children are trained in step-by-step manner to think like scientists and innovators.

The Freedom Foundation, in its letter to the Mirza brothers regarding the award, has stated that their efforts to turn students into innovators and to establish a school to help students succeed amplify the essence of the award.

The letter further reads, “Freedom's Foundation's National Awards Programme has honored exceptional work of committed individuals and organizations from throughout the United States... as a 2020 recipient of the ‘George Washington Honor Medal’, your name is added to the list of a historically prestigious group of citizens, whose work and dedication advanced the American ideal.”

The award would be conferred to the Mirza brothers in a ceremony at Dallas next year.

The Mirza brothers hail from Samanpura locality in Patna. Rizwan is a management academic and consultant with a research interest in innovation. He is pursuing PhD in ‘innovation and corporate sustainability’ and currently working with a technology MNC as chief innovation officer, leading and managing innovation teams and activities for the company worldwide. He evaluates patentability and commercialization potential of innovations made by students at DiscoverSTEM.

“We are greatly honored by this award for educational development and would like to thank everyone who were a part of the decision to acknowledge our work on innovation, education and social contribution,” **Rizwan said.**

Faizan, the younger brother to Rizwan, is an aerospace scientist and the inventor of Ground Reality Information Processing System (GRIPS), an innovation to prevent runway incursion and detect foreign object on runways in real time. He currently lives in Texas.

“More than 200 of our students aged between 10 to 18 years have filed for the patents for their innovations after undergoing our innovation modules. we have plans to provide even greater research and innovation opportunities to our students as we have tie up with some leading research labs in the US for joint-research partnership,” **Faizan said.**

