



VALLEY

ASU, MCC students win \$50,000 and patent for 'Fire Mitt' invention

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17 hours ago



The Paradigm Challenge grand prize winners, Scott Johnson and Emma Spencer. (Photo: Paradigm Challenge)

LOS ANGELES - An Arizona State University and Mesa Community College student recently took home the grand prize at The Paradigm Challenge.

According to a release, [The Paradigm Challenge](#) is a large youth innovation competitions that “challenges students to use STEM skills plus kindness, creativity, and collaboration to generate new ideas to prevent injuries and fatalities from home fires.”

Emma Spencer and Scott Johnson invented the “Fire Mitt,” a new way to extinguish cooking fires.

Their invention is an oven mitt that unfolds into a fire blanket.



"When a fire breaks out in the kitchen, people need to grab something and put it out in a hurry," Spencer said in a release. "Many homes have fire extinguishers, but most people do not know where their fire extinguisher is or how to use it."

Johnson said the duo wanted to create something that was easily accessible.

"We realized that everyone keeps oven mitts in their kitchen and they usually know where they are as they are cooking," he said.


More than 50,000 students participated in the event -- and money's not the only prize Spencer and Johnson will be taking home.

The students will also receive an all-expenses paid patent application.

“We are excited about winning the \$50,000 so we can pay for college,” Spencer said. “But we are even more excited to have won an all-expense-paid patent application because now we can ensure that the Fire Mitt will make it to market and into people’s homes.”

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