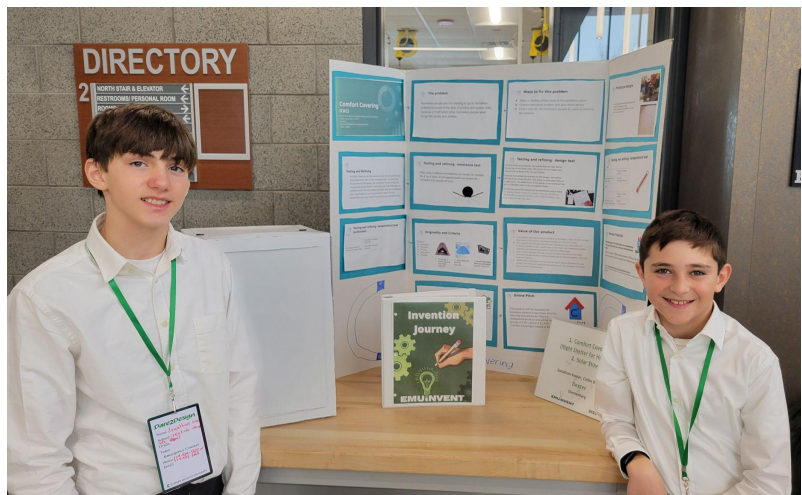## Dexter Students Shine at EMU Invention Competition

On March 10th, several Dexter Community Schools student inventors showcased their innovative creations at EMUiNVENT at Eastern Michigan University. EMUiNVENT is an interactive and interdisciplinary opportunity for third through twelfth grade students to follow the invention process and create a prototype for regional competition. Students learn entrepreneurship, problem solving, designing, planning, development of models, public speaking, and working in teams. In order to present their inventions at EMUiNVENT, students had to attend either the Dare2Design program or attend a TechAThon camp.

Creekside sixth graders Jonathan Keeler and Collin Wirkner participated in EMUiNVENT's Dare2Design program, which ran from October 2022 through February 2023. From the EMUiNVENT website: "Dare2Design is a program for school students (Grade 3-12) to develop innovative mindset. Participants will go through the 8-step process of innovation to solve a problem they face regularly. This fun hands-on camp teaches problem-solving, collaboration, and the process of innovation."

After learning that homeless people are apprehensive about staying in shelters (or stadiums/large facilities in cases of natural disasters) due to concerns of privacy and theft, Keeler and Wirkner worked together to design *Comfort Cover* for presentation at the March 10th competition. The *Comfort Cover* is a portable shelter that can be set up anywhere to provide protection, privacy, and safety from theft.

Another avenue to the EMUiNVENT showcase is the TechAThon camp, a two-day hands-on camp for fourth through eleventh graders where students learn how to create the Internet of Things (IoT) with Arduino and Raspberry Pi. 2023 attendees created an internet-linked smart device such as a timed pet feeder or pet toy, a car music device, or a custom alarm. Seven students from Creekside Intermediate and Wylie Elementary Schools attended TechAThon in January.

At the March 10th showcase, sixth graders Everett Stenberg & Tobias Finn presented their creation, *Dragon Wiper - Rear View Camera Cleaner*, designed to assist drivers when their vehicle's backup camera

gets dirty. Fifth graders Dominic Schoenherr and Juliet Musleh showcased their *Solar Mover*, a board on wheels that moves with the sun to help full-sun plants. Porter Sharp (5th grade) displayed his creation *The Smart Front Door*, which automatically opens a door by pressing an electronic key fob. Calvin Schrauben and Rayne Newmister (4th grade) invented *Pen Pusher*, a pen/pencil holder that organizes and dispenses writing utensils.

Keeler and Wirkner's *Comfort Cover* was selected at the regional level to be entered into the state competition. They will move on to compete at the 2023 Invention Convention Michigan at The Henry Ford on April 29, 2023. This isn't the first competition for Keeler; in 2022, he placed 3rd in the 3-5 grade category with his invention The *Supersolar Stove*. Also during this year's awards ceremony, Juliet Musleh won the "Budding Inventor Award," and Jonathan Keeler won the "Climate Solutions Award."

Congratulations to these young innovators!