



# LEMELSON-MIT ILLINOIS STUDENT PRIZE



Colin created the Beacon—the first fire safety device for the hearing impaired that falls within an affordable price range. The device plugs directly into a wall outlet and its strobe light is activated by the beeping frequency of a standard smoke detector. The Beacon has a back-up battery that powers three LEDs in the event of a power outage. This portable device can travel with the user throughout their various living situations (dorm, apartment, house), or for overnight stays at a friend's house, hotel, or vacation place. Colin developed this idea during a research project for an industrial design class and later furthered the design and uses by joining the Sign Language Club at the University of Illinois to get a user's perspective. As a student in Industrial Design, Colin has learned to think beyond a product's design to see how it will improve quality of life for its users.

2011 FINALIST  
**COLIN LAKE**

UNDERGRADUATE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN