



SYNERGY

Westchester's Advocacy for Gifted & Talented Education
Andi Stix, Ed.D. & PCC
Certified Life and Educational Coach
914 🐟 636 🐟 0888

“Please make your bed...walk the dog...then change the world!”

New National Challenge Finds Talent Among Kids as Young as Five

[G-tec Kids](#), a nationally-recognized afterschool enrichment program for gifted and talented children and [Synergy Westchester](#), an advocacy group dedicated to promoting the education and enrichment of gifted and talented children have partnered to sponsor *The Synergy Challenge*. This contest will identify and reward kids who apply their imaginations to solve complex issues. Rather than playing with their electronic devices after school ends, kids will be encouraged to invent, create, and contribute.

“As our country faces daunting challenges, inventors, scientists, and community advocates have become the new ‘rock stars,’” says Andi Stix, Ed.D., founder and Director of G-tec Kids and The Synergy Challenge. “And children are often the best source of new ideas, because they have fantastic boundless imaginations and energy. They learn best hands-on. We hope to share some of the winning entries with companies and organizations that can put these ideas into practice...and encourage the next generation of problem-solvers.”

Always positive in spirit, each new *Challenge* will encourage participants to improve their community, themselves, or another living thing and will involve the task of designing, creating or building something realistic – it must actually work! The first *Challenge* entitled, [Comic Animator](#), starts September 12th, 2011 and can be seen [HERE](#). Participants create their own comic book characters who can solve a major issue. Winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate to The Learning Express, Amazon, iTunes or they may choose to donate the prize to their charity of choice.

Children participate in one of three age-appropriate *Challenge* categories: Elementary (Grades K-4), Middle (Grades 5-8), High (Grades 9-12) as an individual or a group. Two winners will be chosen from each category on the basis of relevance, originality of thought, uniqueness of content, creative expression and grammar. Members of Synergy’s Facebook community will vote for their favorite entries. A panel of judges will then pick winners from among the Facebook finalists.

All entries are due December 1, 2011.

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G-tec Awards:

- National Assoc. of Gifted Children: Outstanding Curriculum Development
- New York State Council for the Social Studies: Program of Excellence
- Middle States Council for the Social Studies: Program of Excellence
- AGATE: Educator of the Year

