

Generations of STEM: James McLurkin

Robotics Engineer

From the time he was small, James was building something. He built his first robot at age 16, having fallen in love with machines and robotics. McLurkin's MIT undergraduate thesis involved building robotic ants, which furthered his study of swarm technology.

While working at iRobot, he created the SwarmBots, inspired by nature and the behavior of bees and ants, where each robot's individual task contributes to the whole group. He built the world's largest swarm project with 112 robots operating together.

McLurkin's work has taken him to several companies including Google, but he continues to give back to the profession working with museums and other institutions to lecture and share his joy of robotics. His achievements have been recognized throughout his career with accolades including the Lemelson-MIT Student Prize, being featured in the Time Magazine "Rise of the Machines" as a leading roboticist and honored as a "Best and Brightest Under 40" by Black Enterprise magazine.



Image Source: Flickr / Ryan Lash