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FUTURE CITY COMPETITION MENTORS OFFER INSIGHTS TO STUDENTS,
AND DISCOVER THE FAVOR HAS BEEN RETURNED

If you can’t clearly communicate with a 12-year-old, Margaret Mead once said, you need a better grasp on your subject matter. The legendary anthropologist would be proud of the local engineers who mentor middle school students.

Several engineers volunteer as mentors with the National Engineers Week Future City Competition™, explaining their profession to 7th- and 8th-graders at more than 25 middle schools in Indiana, but more engineers willing to volunteer their time are always needed!

Future City offers students a chance to see, first hand, how engineering goes from creative concept to finished product, the efforts of many working toward a common goal. The competition also opens students’ eyes to the world of engineering and gives mentors the chance to spread the word about their profession. A large part of personal satisfaction results from the benefits it gives the students, particularly the insights they get from an engineering perspective. Some engineers also say participating in Future City help their communication skills on the job by learning how to become better supervisors.

The students, under the guidance of a teacher, tap the engineer’s knowledge as they create their city on computer using SimCity 3000, build a 3-D model of the city, and write an essay – all in the hopes of winning the regional competition in January and an all-expense-paid trip to the National Finals in Washington, D.C., during National Engineers Week in February. In 2004, more than 30,000 students from 1,100 schools in 33 regions participated in Future City, the largest engineering education program in the country.

The Indiana Regional Future City Competition is currently seeking engineers to serve as mentors for local schools interested in participating in the competition. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact the Indiana Regional Co-Coordinator, Carol Dostal, by phone at (260) 481-6905, or by email at dostalc@ipfw.edu. For more information about the competition, please visit www.ipfw.edu/fcc.

Editors Please Note: For photos of 2004 Indiana Future City Competition teams, contact Carol Dostal at (260) 481-6905 or dostalc@ipfw.edu. For more information about the competition, please visit www.ipfw.edu/fcc.

In Brief: The National Engineers Week Future City Competition™ seeks engineers from every field to volunteer this fall and winter to introduce middle school students across the nation to a career in engineering. Since its founding in 1992, the educational program has made engineering come alive for more than 300,000 students nationwide.

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