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HOT TOPICS FOR INDIANA SEVENTH- AND EIGHTH-GRADERS:
ENGINEERING FUTURE CITIES


It could happen – especially for the hundreds of Indiana middle school students set to participate in the National Engineers Week Future City Competition, which each year invites young people to create a city of tomorrow. What began in 1992 as a modest project to encourage math and science skills and lay the foundation for a career in engineering has become the nation’s largest engineering education program, this year expected to reach 30,000 students in 1,100 schools. Currently, the Indiana regional competition is seeking teachers interested in having their students participate.

The Indiana regional competition will be held Saturday, January 22, 2005, on the Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) campus. Teams will compete for first place and for the chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to the Future City National Finals in Washington D.C. during National Engineers Week in February. The grand prize is a trip to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

The competition asks students, working in teams and under the guidance of a teacher and volunteer engineer-mentor from the community, to design a city of the future and include a plan that helps meet a particular social need through the following ways: using SimCity 3000 software to design a computer version of their city; build a large three-dimensional scale model; research a designated topic (this year, teams will research the use of aggregates in building transportation systems); and present their findings and ideas to a panel of engineering experts and community judges.

The Indiana Regional Future City Competition is currently seeking schools and teachers to register teams to compete. The registration deadline is OCTOBER 15, 2004, and the registration cost is $25. If you are interested in participating in the competition, 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.etcs.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, or visit the Indiana Future City Competition website: www.etcs.ipfw.edu/fcc

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