



IowaCollegeAid.gov
Your Financial Aid Connection

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Doe
515-725-3417
515-229-6377 cell
heather.doe@iowa.gov

Governor's Cup Awarded to Real World Design Challenge Victors *Davenport West High School team heads to Washington, D.C. for national competition*

Des Moines, IA., February 21st, 2012 – A team of students from Davenport West High School won the 2012 state-level component of the Real World Design Challenge during a competition held last Saturday at the Science Center of Iowa. The Real World Design Challenge (RWDC), an event held annually, provides high school students, grades 9 through 12, the opportunity to apply classroom lessons to technical problems currently faced in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) professions. The three-student team from Davenport West High School was presented the Governor's Cup by Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds and will represent Iowa in the Real World Design Challenge national finals in Washington, D.C. on April 20-23, 2012.

Teams from Corning High School (Corning, IA), Don Bosco Catholic High School (Gilbertville, IA), Hoover High School (Des Moines, IA), Marshalltown High School (Marshalltown, IA) and West High School (Davenport, IA) shared their designs for “an efficient, low-carbon-emission and environmentally-friendly personal light sport aircraft (LSA),” as well as their 2000-word essay about what they would see and do if they were given the opportunity to fly their design across the country. The participating teams received \$1 million in professional engineering software as well as training on how to use the software and other aspects of the program. Team solutions were judged by a panel consisting of professors from Iowa's Regent Universities, industry professionals and a representative from the Iowa College Student Aid Commission (Iowa College Aid).

Jason Franzenburg, a technology education teacher at Davenport West High School, coached the winning team consisting of students Pardeep Saini, Amber Sawvell, and Eli Shellabarger. In addition, the team received guidance and support from their industry mentors: Julie Kim - Exelon Nuclear, Mechanical Engineer; Derek Atwood - Boeing, Structural Engineer; Ben Pickering - Rockwell Collins, Senior Aircraft Mechanic; Haskel Zeloof - Diversatec Manufacturing, owner; Chelsea Velasquez - Iowa State University, Aerospace Engineering Student. Second place was awarded to Des Moines Hoover High School students Amra Softic, Thayne Henderson, Jose Lopez and Chris Markle and their coach Mark Schnurstein.

-more-

“All Real World Design Challenge teams presented exceptional concepts and should be pleased with their accomplishments in applying classroom learning to complex problems facing our society,” said Karen Misjak, executive director of Iowa College Aid. “Iowa College Aid is proud of the Davenport West High School students and excited they will have the opportunity to take their aircraft design to Washington, D.C. and compete in the national competition.”

The state-level RWDC was sponsored by GEAR UP Iowa (administered by Iowa College Aid), the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Transportation, Iowa State University, John Deere, NASA, Project Lead the Way, Rockwell Collins, Science Center of Iowa, Softronics, University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa.

For more information about the Real World Design Challenge event, please contact Iowa College Aid at 877-272-4456. General information regarding the Real World Design Challenge is accessible online at <http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org/>. In addition, information to help Iowa families plan, prepare and pay for college is available on Iowa College Aid’s website, www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

###

About the Iowa College Student Aid Commission

Iowa College Aid provides college access, financial literacy, and outreach services to Iowa’s students and families as they prepare, plan and pay for college. Iowa College Aid also administers state scholarship, grant, work study, and loan forgiveness programs totaling nearly \$60.0 million annually, administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), provides borrowers with assistance to avoid the serious consequences of default, conducts research and distributes higher education data, and offers Iowans assistance in obtaining student financial aid and college-related information. Through its role, Iowa College Aid also serves as the state-designated administrator of the U.S. Department of Education’s College Access Challenge Grant, which is designed to increase the college-going culture in Iowa. Additionally, Iowa College Aid is the administrator of the Federal GEAR UP Grant, a multi-year state-wide grant which is being used to provide early awareness programming and outreach initiatives to thousands of Iowa’s students and families. More information is available at www.IowaCollegeAid.gov.

About the Real World Design Challenge

The Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) is an annual high school competition run by a public-private partnership with the goal of sustainably increasing the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce. The partners are focused on working within the context of the American educational system to transform STEM education in the United States by providing professional science and engineering and learning resources to students and teachers.

The RWDC began in 2008 through a partnership between industry, government, academia, and non-profit. The partners were committed to bringing a program to schools that brought professional engineering resources into the classroom, was free to participate in, and could scale to every school in the United States. The partners brought together \$263 million in resources and began working with governors to build an infrastructure of states to scale across the United States. The first year, ten states participated, with more states added every year.