

Registration Deadline Approaching For National Engineers Week Foundation's Annual Future City Competition

Over 35,000 Students Nationally Asked To Rethink Runoff and Design Clean Solutions to Manage Stormwater Pollution

Dallas/Fort Worth-16 August 2012 – From flood to drought and biting cold to blistering heat, extreme weather is increasingly prevalent throughout the world. Politicians, academics and engineers are working to do their part to manage this issue and reduce the effect of climate change. Starting this fall, middle schoolers from across the country, participating in National Engineers Week Foundation's 2012-2013 Future City Competition, will act as engineering leaders to develop their own solutions to combat the devastating effect of flooding after prolonged drought, which is often brought on by these severe weather events.

The registration deadline for schools nationwide is Wednesday, October 31, 2012. Future City is also looking for engineering and technical professionals who may be interested in serving as mentors. For information, school registration, or to volunteer in the Future City Competition, visit www.dfwfuturecity.org.

The 2012-2013 Future City Competition is expected to attract over 35,000 students from various middle schools in regions located across the country. The annual challenge has received national attention and acclaim for its role in encouraging middle schoolers nationwide to develop their interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Through hands on applications, Future City participants discover how engineering is both accessible and can make a difference in the world. Sixth, seventh and eighth graders are eligible to take part in the competition.

Students will begin by submitting a research essay describing their solutions for this year's theme – **Rethink Runoff: Design Clean Solutions to Manage Stormwater Pollution**.

As students analyze the most damaging effects of extreme weather, they will imagine and design new and creative ways to manage stormwater that make city landscapes act more like natural landscapes. Using SimCity 4 Deluxe Edition software, participating students will work with an educator and volunteer mentor to design a virtual Future City model incorporating their ideas. Then they will build a physical model using recycled materials which can cost no more than \$100 to build.

As each team addresses its stormwater runoff solutions, students will consider the safety, cost, efficiency and appearance of their ideas. They will also learn about the engineering disciplines that encompass their solutions, including learning and identifying the steps of the design process.

Greg Bentley, CEO of Bentley Systems, a sponsor of the national Future City Competition for the past 14 years, says, "This year's challenge is particularly timely given the massive flooding that occurred early in 2012 in so many parts of the globe. Provide resilience to such devastation through the design and construction of better-performing, intelligent infrastructure is what engineers do to protect the world's life-sustaining potable water supplies. Having these bright young students come up with similarly rigorous solutions to a problem they know to be very real is a great way to inspire

them to pursue a career in engineering – so that they, too, can make a difference in the quality of life for people around the world.”

“Future City has, once again, brought forth an important issue for students to address,” adds Debra Stewart, Director, Supplier Diversity, Workforce Development & Diversity Outreach, Shell Oil Company. “The Rethink Runoff project will not only allow students to utilize science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts, but it will also promote critical and innovative thinking skills. We believe it is important to continually engage and encourage STEM education to help arm the future scientists and leaders with the necessary knowledge needed to help our country and global community. Shell is proud to be part of the Future City 2012-2013 competition.”

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About Future City Competition

The Annual National Engineers Week Foundation’s Future City Competition, for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, is held from September, 2012 through February, 2013. The Future City Competition is a program of National Engineers Week Foundation (NEWF), a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations.

About National Engineers Week Foundation

The National Engineers Week Foundation works year-round to sustain and grow a dynamic engineering profession critical to public health, safety, and welfare. The Foundation supports engineering outreach, education, and celebration through a network of thousands of volunteers in its partner coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies. Together we meet a vital need: introducing students, parents, and educators to engineering, engaging them in hands-on engineering experiences, and making science and math relevant. The Foundation and coalition are actively putting the E in STEM.

For more information, visit www.eweek.org.

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