



MEDIA ALERT

Karla Denny, Director of Communications (785) 296-4876

March 5, 2009

Real World Design Challenge National Event

KEY FACTS:

What: Real World Design Challenge National Event

When: March 20 – 22, 2009

Where: National 4-H Youth Conference Center, Chevy Chase, MD

The Real World Design Challenge National event, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, will be held at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center located just outside of Washington, DC on March 20-22, 2009. The ten Governor's Cup State Challenge Winning teams will travel, all-expenses paid, to compete for the National Title. Baldwin High School students Carson Barnes, Colin Busby, Colby Soden and Lauren Barnes will be representing Kansas at the Department of Energy's National Real World Design Challenge. The 2009 Challenge focused on solving real problems currently faced by the engineering industry, specifically, fuel consumption and efficiency in an aircraft.

During this event, teams will be asked to present to a diverse panel of judges their solutions to the National Challenge designed by aeronautical engineers at Cessna. In addition to the competition, students will attend presentations by scientists and engineers, tour the National Mall and attend a reception and awards ceremony at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC.

On the morning of Saturday, March 20, 2009, these ten State champion teams will present their solutions to the National Challenge at the National 4-H Youth Conference Center in Chevy Chase, MD. These presentations will begin at 9:00 a.m. and are open to the public. Three teams will be selected as finalists and will make an additional presentation in the evening.

The evening's activities will be located at the National Air and Space Museum, Washington, DC, and will begin at 7:00 p.m. After a few brief remarks, the three top teams, as determined by a stringent screening process, will make 15 minute presentations describing their aircraft designs and design strategy to a panel of judges representing industry, academia, and government, as well as the audience of invited guests. While the judges caucus, a reception will provide guests with the opportunity to converse with students and coaches from all ten of the State champion teams. The evening will conclude with the awards ceremony.

For more information on the 2009 National Design Challenge, contact Dr. Sid Cooley, Kansas State Department of Education, at 785-296-3486.

###