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Hutchinson Innovators Win 2011 Real World Design Challenge

Hutchinson Innovators Team to represent Minnesota in national competition

St. Paul – Students from Hutchinson High School became the third consecutive Minnesota Real World Design Challenge winners today by designing a next-generation wing of an aircraft using real professional tools.

The Real World Design Challenge is a competition designed to increase student interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). This year students were challenged to design, build and test a wing prototype to support 160,000 pound aircraft. Last year, the Hutchinson Innovators team placed third in the National Competition and placed first in the engineering design notebook. In 2009, Hutchinson placed first in the state competition.

"For the third year in a row, Minnesota students have set a standard for excellence in this competition, and pushed themselves to excel beyond their classroom," said Commissioner Brenda Cassellius. "I commend each of the Hutchinson students and their coach for their outstanding effort." Exciting opportunities like the Real World Challenge are getting kids excited about STEM careers and exposing them to the science, math and technologies skills that will play such an important part of our 21st century knowledge economy. I look forward to promoting increased participation in opportunities like these for even more students across our state."

The Hutchinson Innovators will represent Minnesota in the national competition in Washington, D.C. on April 15-18, 2011. The Real World Design Challenge was conducted during the 2010-11 academic year. The winning team will participate in the national challenge that begins Feb. 22, 2011 and receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. to participate at the National Event.

The goal of the Real World Design Challenge is to inspire and engage all students in STEM and systematically highlight the potential future for those who choose science and engineering careers. Minnesota's participation in the Challenge was conducted through partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Aviation Administration and the Minnesota Department of Education.

During the challenge, students were challenged to improve fuel efficiency by reducing drag and weight while maintaining aircraft integrity. Each team was paired with engineering mentors from major aircraft companies. Students presented their work this morning to a panel of judges.

The Hutchinson Innovators includes: Coach: Daryl Lundin; Team Members: Alex Felber, Tyler Esser, Burnie Lauer, Jason Corby, Phil Kwitek, Shane Hughes and Tyler Lauer.

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