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Cape May County Technical High School

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Cape May County Technical High School Engineering Team Wins New Jersey State Design Challenge

Cape May Court House, New Jersey—The Cape May County Technical High School in Cape May Court House, New Jersey, announced today that a team of Tech engineering students has won the New Jersey State Section of the 2011 Real World Design Challenge (RWDC). As a result of the win, the Cape May Tech Engineers team will represent the State of New Jersey in the national round of the RWDC competition. The national round will be held April 15-18 at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. All expenses for the team to compete in the national event are being paid by the RWDC. There, each state's winning team will make a presentation of their technical design solution to a panel of judges, and a national winner will be chosen. The top national winners will receive awards and recognition from leaders in government, industry and higher education.

The Cape May Tech Engineers on the New Jersey championship team are:

Chris Bossert, grade 11

Jason McAnulty, grade 11

Hannah Gray, grade 11

Marimar Rivera, grade 11

Zach Gallo, grade 11

Billy Oakley, grade 11

Dylan Murphy, grade 11

The team's coach is Peter Hart, Teacher of Pre-Engineering at Cape May Tech. The team is also being mentored by a group of aerospace engineering professionals from both industry and academia.

“This is a big win for these students, and a big boost to the Pre-Engineering Career Technical program at Cape May County Technical High School,” said Capt. Hart. “The NJ State Championship of the RWDC was unexpected, as we were a first year team, composed of junior year students. The team researched the wing concept, and aerodynamic and structural design and analysis theory. We knew that our design methodology was first class. The students came up with a wing design that was commercially viable, and that met the RWDC project requirements. The team did a lot of hard work to learn, and then to use the advanced computer aided engineering software tools. They showed that they can do the work, and it resulted in a nationally recognized state championship in engineering. I am very proud of them.”

One of the main sponsors of the RWDC program is Parametric Technologies Software, Inc. (PTC). In order to compete in the RWDC project, each team of students was provided with over one million dollars worth of Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) software tools, courtesy of PTC. The software suite includes an Engineering Database (CPDM), Computer Aided Design (CAD), and both aerodynamics (CFD) and structural dynamics (FEA) analysis software tools. The entire suite of donated software has been installed and is currently being used by the Pre-Engineering students in the Cape May County Technical High School. Cape May Tech Principal Mike Adams commented “The donated software suite represents advanced tools that are currently used in the aerospace industry. These same tools are also being adopted by Cessna, NASA, FAA, and the DoD for engineering design and analysis. The software is professional grade, and Cape May Tech will use it well to prepare engineering students for real world careers in industry and government.”

The Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) is a public-private partnership aimed at sustainably increasing the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workforce in the long term. The RWDC is supported by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of Math and Science Education. The RWDC project is an annual engineering design competition that provides high school students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to work on real world engineering challenges in a collaborative, team-based environment. Each year, the teams are asked to address a difficult technical challenge confronting a leading industry. This year's challenge was to use aero-elastic tailoring to design the exterior geometry and interior structure of a commercial airliner wing in a manner that maximizes both fuel efficiency and aerodynamic efficiency.

For more information on the 2011 RWDC program, please visit online at www.realworlddesignchallenge.org.

For more information about the Cape May County Technical High School, please visit online at www.capemaytech.com or call 609-465-2161 Ext. #643. To contact the Cape May Tech Pre-Engineering program, please send email to petehart@capemaytech.com

