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## **Education Commissioner Alice Seagren Announces Real World Challenge Winners**

*Hutchinson Team  
to represent Minnesota in national competition*

St. Paul – Minnesota Education Commissioner Alice Seagren today announced that a team of students from Hutchinson High School has won the Real World Design Challenge, a competition designed to increase student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

“When students are inspired and engaged they can achieve amazing things,” Commissioner Seagren said. “Their efforts, and the efforts of all the students who participated in the Real World Design Challenge, will better prepare them for a hypercompetitive 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”

The Hutch Innovators will represent Minnesota in the national competition in Washington, DC in March.

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 and the Minnesota Department of Education.

The Real World Design Challenge includes ten states in the pilot and will be conducted during the 2008-09 academic year. School teams across the state will compete to solve the Governor’s Challenge.

The classroom experiences were designed to teach students to work as global engineering teams. The challenge was for students to design a fuel-efficient aircraft by either improving an aircraft’s engine (making it more fuel efficient) or refining the aircraft’s aerodynamics (simply reducing the aircraft drag by a fraction of a percent can save a large airline millions of dollars in fuel costs). A Peer Review Committee evaluated challenge submissions.

### **The Hutch Innovators includes:**

Coach: Daryl Lundin

Team Members: Jacob Ballard, Jesse Brooks, Erik Bute, Katherine Weikle

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