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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

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Nicole Corcoran, Press Secretary
785.368.8500

Sebelius: Kansas students can create aircraft technology of the future *State selected for nation-wide challenge to design tomorrow's aviation breakthroughs*

To prepare Kansas students for the in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow, Governor Kathleen Sebelius has announced a partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy for Kansas students to enter the 'Real World Design Challenge' - a nationwide contest that puts high school students along side industry experts to solve real engineering problems.

"The goal of this nation-wide challenge is to inspire students to succeed in the critical areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics" Sebelius said. "These areas will play a critical part in preparing the next generation of Kansas workers for twenty-first century jobs," Governor Sebelius said.

The 'Real World Design Challenge' will give Kansas high school students the opportunity to use computer-aided design (CAD) and other professional engineering software to design 'greener' aircraft while looking for ways to increase aircraft performance and reduce operating costs.

Students working on the project will also be able to collaborate online with mentors from the aviation/aerospace industry; Department of Energy Laboratories, Federal Aviation Administration Centers, and institutions of higher education across the country. Oakridge National Laboratory in Tennessee will host Windchill, the global engineering collaboration software, enabling communication with mentors. Hewlett Packard Corporation is donating the servers to host Windchill.

Engineers from Kansas-based Cessna Aircraft Company led a national group of experts from education and the aviation/aerospace industry in developing the curricula for this aviation-themed design project. Other contributors include the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, Build-A-Plane and many others.

Students and teachers in high schools across the state will form teams to work on this Real World Design Challenge and will also participate in local and state competitions. Governor Sebelius will announce a winner in February of 2009 to represent Kansas in the final competition to be held in Washington D.C.

Kansas teachers will also receive millions of dollars worth of computer-aided design (CAD) software provided by Parametric Technology Corporation at no charge to Kansas teachers who participate in the project. Flomerics Inc. is donating fluid dynamics testing software.

To participate in the program, teachers must attend a two-day training course to learn to use the software. Cost of the training course is free to Kansas teachers, compliments of Cessna Aircraft Company. Participants completing the training will each receive more than \$900,000 worth of engineering software to use in their classrooms and in the Real World Design Challenge.

Teachers interested in participating in this Real World Design Challenge should log onto <http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/RWDC/index.html>.

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