

# **\*Advisory\***

## **Student Engineers to be Recognized at Statehouse**

WHAT: Real World Design Challenge Awards Ceremony

WHEN: Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: Cedar Creek Room, Statehouse

**MONTPELIER** – Five South Burlington High School students will be recognized by Lt. Governor Brian Dubie and Commissioner Armando Vilaseca for winning the first ever Vermont Real World Design Challenge. The team will now travel to Washington, D.C. to participate in the national event.

The Real World Design Challenge is a joint effort spearheaded by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Aviation Administration, software company PTC and other partners. Vermont was chosen to launch the competition nationally in July 2008. Nine more states then chose to take part in this first year of the challenge. The RWDC is designed to help foster real world challenges in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). This initiative provides software and resources to participating schools and teams and encourages students to seek further education in these fields beyond high school.

Their task was to design an airplane wing that was fuel efficient on both take-off and landing. The PTC software is the same computer-assisted design (CAD) software used by professional engineers. It is provided at no charge to all students and teachers at all schools who participate in the challenge. Students are mentored by professional engineers from the U.S. Dept of Energy, the FAA, Cessna and other participating companies in Vermont and nationally.

The South Burlington Team will go on to Washington, D.C. on March 20<sup>th</sup> to compete in the National Challenge against the other winners from the remaining nine states. The team, led by Coach Steve Barner at South Burlington High School, is currently working on the preliminary portion of their national entry and will do a presentation before a panel of aviation experts who will judge the overall entries.

The members of the team and their grade levels in South Burlington are:

Michael Gaffney, Senior; Thomas Piper, Sophomore; Amsal Karic, Senior;  
Jonathon Girard, Freshman; Varun tej Gonuguntla, Senior

The Real World Design Challenge is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Science, in partnership with the State of Vermont, Parametric Technology Corporation, Cessna Aircraft Company, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

For more information on the Real World Design Challenge, please go to:

<http://www.scied.science.doe.gov/RWDC/index.html>

Jill Remick | Communications Director | Vermont Department of Education | 120 State St. | Fourth Floor | Montpelier, VT 05620-2501 | 802-828-3154