

Kennewick Team Wins Design Competition for Fourth Consecutive Year

OLYMPIA — March 16, 2012 — For the fourth consecutive year, a team of students from Kennewick has won a statewide design competition and will get a chance to compete for national prizes, State Superintendent Randy Dorn announced today.

The team, from Kamiakin High School, won the 2012 Washington State Real World Design Challenge by designing a sport aircraft.

Calling themselves Sandy Planes, the team is comprised of the following members: Cooper Atkinson, Kyle Deatherage, Devin Gerboth, Joe Luey, Paul Pierson, Robin Rakowski and Sangeetha Thevuthasan. The team is coached by Kennewick architect Terrance Casey.

“Congratulations go out to Sandy Planes,” Dorn said. “It’s amazing that they’ve won the award four years in a row. That’s a testament to both the students and the teachers who care about the competition.”

This year’s challenge was to design a light sport aircraft that could carry two passengers 200 miles in less than two hours. The design had to follow criteria established by the Federal Aviation Administration and had to satisfy about a dozen other capacity and technical constraints.

Teams followed an engineering process, starting with brain storming, and continuing with conceptual and detailed design phases. The final product was an engineering notebook, which documented their design process, trade-offs that they considered, their airfoil (wing) and other aspects of their design, and an essay describing what it would be like to fly their aircraft across the country.

After winning the Washington State Challenge, the team now heads to the national championship in Washington, D.C., in April. During the national competition, Sandy Planes will refine its initial design to make it as energy efficient as possible. The team will also be submitting another essay to describe a flight in their aircraft from Kitty Hawk, N.C., to Dayton, Ohio. They will present their final designs to a panel of industry experts.

The 2011 Kamiakin High School team, the Connotations of Flight,

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finished second in the nation.

The [Real World Design Challenge](#) is an annual high school competition run by a public-private partnership with the goal of sustainably increasing the science, technology, engineering and mathematics workforce. Partners include NASA, the Department of Defense, the National Governors Association and numerous university and industry partners.

Two industry partners, PTC and Mentor Graphics, provide up to \$1 million worth of professional software and training to each team that competes, and employees of the partners serve as team mentors and judges. The Challenge is free to compete, and challenges teams with [real design](#) problems, using professional engineering tools, with team members playing real roles.

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The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) is the primary agency charged with overseeing K-12 education in Washington state. Led by State School Superintendent Randy Dorn, OSPI works with the state's 295 school districts and nine Educational Service Districts to administer basic education programs and implement education reform on behalf of more than one million public school students.

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