

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 18, 2011

For more information, contact:

Sherriene Jones-Sontag

785.368.7138 (office)

785.969.7278 (mobile)

Media@ks.gov

Baldwin High School team wins state's design challenge for third consecutive year

TOPEKA— Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced today students from Baldwin High School in Baldwin City, USD 348, won the 2011 Kansas Real World Design Challenge (RWDC). The team will represent Kansas in the national competition April 15-18 at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

"It is a distinct honor for me to recognize these students and commend them for their ingenuity and creativity in addressing a pressing challenge in the aviation industry," Gov. Brownback said. "As we move forward in the 21st century economy, it will be imperative that our students develop the critical thinking and problem solving skills needed to address these types of challenges."

Baldwin High School has won the state competition each year since the inception of the program in 2009. Last year's team went on to win the national competition. The team beat out 22 other schools to win the state competition this year. The members of the winning team are:

- Brandon Baltzell, grade 12
- Carson Barnes, grade 12
- Kaitlyn Barnes, grade 10
- Carrie Dietz, grade 10
- Mac Halpin, grade 10
- Mackenzie Johnson, grade 10
- Austin Kraus, grade 10

The team's coach is Pam Davis and their mentors are Sandy Barnes, Ottawa; Mark Beyer, Wichita; Chris Hedden, Lawrence; and Andrew Hahn, Hampton, VA.

The RWDC is an annual competition that provides high school students grades 9-12 the opportunity to work on real world engineering challenges in a team environment. Each year, the teams are asked to address a challenge confronting a leading industry. This year's challenge was to use aeroelastic tailoring to design the exterior geometry and interior structure of an airliner wing in a manner that maximizes both fuel efficiency and aerodynamic efficiency.

For more information on the RWDC or to get involved, contact Kansas' RWDC Coordinator Sid Cooley by email at scooley@ksde.org or by phone at 785-296-3486. Information is also available online at www.realworlddesignchallenge.org.

###