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November 2007

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## Regional Finals in "Future City Competition™" Set Students create a vision of the future

In conjunction with NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK<sub>®</sub> (NEW), Chicago engineering societies will be hosting a student design competition for area schools. The contest, known as the "Future City Competition™", will require middle grade students with the assistance of an engineer mentor, to design a future city with the aid of the award winning computer game, SimCity 3000™ from Maxis.

This program has been developed by engineers to provide much needed technological education to the students. According to Bob Johnson, spokesman for the Chicago program, the competition is in the sixteenth year and is the only one of the 40 regional programs that have competed all years. "Currently schools are starting work on their futuristic cities using the SimCity software and writing their essays." Regional chairman Don Wittmer notes, "It is exciting to see the interaction between the students and witness the enthusiasm that these students have in learning about engineering and the real life problems that are encounter everyday. Our hope is that this competition helps students consider the possibility of studying engineering when they attend college."

Derek Johnson, co-cordinator adds, "It is a great experience for all involved -- the students have fun while learning about engineering and gaining valuable teamwork and presentation skills. Engineers, mentors, judges and volunteers always leave impressed by the students' ability and enthusiasm." For detailed information on the competition, call the NEW hotline at 703-684-2852 or Don Wittmer (312) 930-9119).

Locally, the regional judging for the competition will take place **Saturday, January 26, 2008**, at the University of Illinois at Chicago, 750 South Halsted. Judging of the projects will begin 8:30 a.m. and end at 2:30 p.m. The winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony beginning about 3:00 p.m. The student models will be on display until the conclusion of the awards ceremony. The public is invited and encouraged to see the vision of the future as seen by Chicagoland's 7th and 8th grade students. There is no cost to attend.

Students from Chicago area schools will be competing for the top prize. The winning school will receive prizes and trophies for the team members. All participants will receive gifts courtesy of the Chicagoland Engineers Week Committee and local engineering/architecture firms. In addition, team members from the winning school will advance to the final judging in Washington, DC. during NATIONAL ENGINEERS WEEK<sub>®</sub>, February 17-23, 2008. The winner of the national competition will receive a week's trip to Space Camp. Top teams from the Regional Competition will be honored at the Annual Chicagoland Engineers Benefit, February 22, 2008.

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