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**MEDIA ALERT**

For Immediate Release

Jan. 18, 2010

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VIE FOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION IN**  
**ANNUAL FUTURE CITY COMPETITION REGIONAL FINALS**  
***STUDENTS DESIGN SYSTEMS FOR ENGINEERING THE FUTURE***

**PITTSBURGH, Jan. 18, 2011** — Can America's middle schoolers do a better job of tackling our nation's health care crisis than the politicians? Since the start of the school year, kids from across the region have been working hard on their Future City projects as they address this year's theme: "***Providing a Reliable and Effective Health Care Product or System That Improves a Sick, Injured or Disabled Patient's Quality of Life and Comfort.***" Now the moment of truth draws near as the regional finals are set to unfold on **Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011**, at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

The [Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition](#) is presented by Carnegie Science Center and the Engineers' Society of Western Pennsylvania, and is sponsored in part by Shell Oil Company.

Nationally, 35 regions from around the country will participate in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Future City competition. First-place winners from each qualifying regional competition earn a berth in the national finals in Washington, D.C., set to take place during National Engineers Week, Feb. 18-22, 2011. The national finals grand prize is a visit to U.S. Space Camp in Huntsville, Ala., provided by national finals host Bentley Systems, Incorporated. The second place team receives \$5,000 from the National Society of Professional Engineers and third place wins \$2,000 from IEEE-USA for their schools' technology programs. Shell is also a national sponsor for the competition.

"It's that exciting time of year again when middle school students from across the country are putting the finishing touches on their work in hopes of reaching the national finals," said Leslie Collins, executive director, National Engineers Week Foundation. "They're eager to present their models and ideas, everything they've been working on over these months."

Engineers have long played a vital role in improving the quality of health care by conceptualizing, developing, and implementing ground-breaking infrastructure, delivery systems, technologies, devices, and products. Since the fall, middle schoolers participating in National Engineers Week Foundation's 2010-11 Future City® Competition have been designing innovative, forward- looking cities that seek to provide reliable health care that improves each patient's quality of life.

## Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition 2011

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Each year, Future City presents themes that highlight a current issue and asks kids to investigate and come up with solutions. Students start with a research essay describing their concept. They are also required to write a City Narrative outlining the key features of their city.

As they envision the medical centers, clinics, and hospitals of the future, students propose, design, and develop the supporting infrastructure – both virtual and physical – that would be integral to those facilities. Participating students use *SimCity™ 4 Deluxe* software to design a virtual Future City model incorporating their ideas. Then they build a physical model using recycled materials at a cost of no more than \$100.

Addressing how to treat a specific category of patient with a specific medical condition, participating students explore options for the practice of both virtual and on-site medicine. They detail the development of systems to support diagnosis, treatment, monitoring, and rehabilitation, and they must adhere to strict technical and ethical standards.

The 2010-11 Future City Competition attracts more than 33,000 students from 1,000 middle schools in regions located across the country. The annual challenge has received national attention and acclaim for its role in encouraging middle schoolers nationwide to develop their interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Through hands-on applications, Future City participants discover by doing how engineering is accessible and how it can make a difference in the world. This year, for the first time, sixth-graders are invited to join seventh- and eighth-grade students in the competition.

“Health care is one of our country’s most important hot-button issues right now,” said Carol Schoemer, Carnegie Science Center staff educator and Pittsburgh Regional Coordinator for Future City. “This year’s challenge should attract even more attention than usual, as we are asking our students to tackle critical issues that our national leaders are grappling with as well.”

For more information on judging or mentoring in the Future City Competition, visit [www.futurecity.org](http://www.futurecity.org), or contact Carol Schoemer at [schoemerc@CarnegieScienceCenter.org](mailto:schoemerc@CarnegieScienceCenter.org)

### **Competition Schedule**

Preliminary judging	9 am–noon
Special awards presentation/ announcement of finalists	1 pm
Finals judging	2 pm
Final awards ceremony	4:30 pm

### **Participating Schools**

Beaver Falls Middle School  
Bridge Street Middle School  
Fort Cherry Jr./Sr. High School  
Fort Couch Middle School  
Franklin Regional Middle School  
Freedom Area Middle School  
Peters Township Middle School  
Pittsburgh Carmalt Academy of Science & Technology  
South Side Middle School

Springdale Jr./Sr. High School  
St. Agnes School  
St. Bede School  
St. Bernard School  
St. Thomas More  
The Ellis School  
Verna Montessori School  
Warren County Christian School  
Warwood Middle School  
West Allegheny Middle School  
Wheeling Middle School  
Winchester Thurston School

### **About Future City Competition**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Future City Competition, for sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, is held from September, 2010 through February, 2011. The National Future City Competition is sponsored in part by National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies and major U.S. corporations. Major funding comes from Bentley Systems, Incorporated, and Shell.

### **About Engineers Week**

The National Engineers Week Foundation, a formal coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies, is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers among young students and by promoting pre-college literacy in math and science. Engineers Week also raises public understanding and appreciation of engineers' contributions to society. Founded in 1951, it is among the oldest of America's professional outreach efforts. Co-chairs for 2011 are Raytheon and the American Society [of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers](#) (ASHRAE). For more information, visit [www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org).

### **About Carnegie Science Center**

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes and off-site education programs.

### **About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh**

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. In 2009, the museums reached more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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### **CARNEGIE SCIENCE CENTER**

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