

Eisenhower Future City Team Wins 'Rookie of the Year' Award

New Berlin, Wis. – On Jan. 16, a team of middle school students from Eisenhower Middle/High School won the "Rookie of the Year" award at their first Future City competition held at Milwaukee School of Engineering.

"We have expanded our engineering programs considerably at the middle and high school levels," said William Trudell, a district Content Coach who proposed the program to the SDNB Board of Education earlier this year. "We wanted our middle school students to have an opportunity to ***show what they can do with what they know***. These programs support the vision of the SDNB graduate. Next year we hope to have a team at both schools."

This is the 24th year of the Future City competition. Students in grades 6-8 may compete. There were almost 60 different teams in the competition. Every year, the student teams need to problem solve a modern day issue by looking at current practices to hypothesize future approaches to the problem.

Students learn the engineering design process as they prepare for the challenges of the competition. Students first create a virtual city that explores how a city develops. Next, they write a city description based on research on the issue and their ideas for the how the future would solve it. They then build a model that represents their city and the solutions to the issue. Additionally, students learn about the many careers that are connected to city development, planning and improvement.

"While at the competition, three members of our team had to present the city and their solutions to a panel of judges as well as special award judges," said Corrine Beresford, a team advisor and science teacher. "Our students worked very hard to meet all of the deadlines and the criteria set forth in the competition. Their efforts paid off as they were selected by the judges for the 'Rookie of the Year' award. I am very proud of them."

Amy Bennett, an associate planner in the Department of Community Development for the City of New Berlin, acted as the team's mentor this season.

"I think a city planner is most helpful for the research and city layout part and an engineer would be valuable during the build," Bennett said. "I enjoyed helping out, I think it's a great competition. So interesting! The kids worked so hard, I'm glad they were recognized."

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