

CMT's Leadership Brings Engineers into Classroom

National program aimed at introducing youth to careers in engineering

The nationally-recognized and award-winning Engineer in the Classroom (EITC) Program for fifth-grade students held its regional Rube Goldberg Device Competition at the 87th Engineering Open House at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on March 9, 2007. District competitions were held earlier in the month and the top three winning teams from each district advanced to showcase their accomplishments at the regional competition. This year's regional winner was from Auburn Middle School, assisted by Shane R Emmert and Teresa Gregoire of Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. (CMT).

The EITC program was developed to address the nation's current engineering shortage by inspiring young people to consider a career in engineering. Since the program's inception in 2000, engineers and local businesses have been working with educators to bring this dynamic presentation of engineering to the classroom. During the six-week program, students learned about the field of engineering, while being challenged with the task of researching, designing, and building a "Rube Goldberg" device. A Goldberg device involves building a complex apparatus, using common items, for the purpose of performing a simple mechanical task, i.e., popping a balloon or raising a flag.

Emil Cook, CMT Vice President and EITC Sangamon County Coordinator - and a board of representatives from area businesses, organizations and schools - worked together to bring the program to twenty-three middle school classes.

"The teachers and engineers said that the EITC competition has been a very positive learning experience for the students and they are looking forward to participating again next year," Cook said.



Emil Cook, the EITC Sangamon County coordinator, addresses attendees at the EITC district competition at Lincoln Land Community College.



CMT's Shane R Emmert works with a fifth-grade class from Auburn Middle School on their Rube Goldberg device which would go on to win the top award in the EITC regional competition.