

## **National Engineers Week Sponsors two student events in the Washington, D.C. Area**

The National Engineers Week Committee ([www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org)) sponsored record setting events in the Washington, D.C. area:

- 1) Family Day Event on February 16, 2002, from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the National Building Museum, Washington, D.C. Family Day is an annual event that hosts hands-on activities sponsored by organizations and corporations, to introduce middle school students to basic engineering principles and, of course, to have fun.
- 2) National Academy of Engineering awarded the prestigious Draper Prize, February 19, 2002. and
- 3) The 2002 National Future City awards were presented on Wednesday, February 20, 2002.

National Engineers Week 2002 kicked off on the right foot with Family Day on Saturday, February 16. It was estimated that 3000 people would attend the event at the National Building Museum to take part in the many hands-on activities, meet ZOOM cast member's Rachel and Garrett, watch a robotics competition and examine Jeff Gordon's NASCAR race car, among other exhibits. Twenty-five Companies and organizations sponsored hands on exhibits at the National Building Museum where the students and parents were often three deep at the exhibits learning and enjoying themselves. At the end of the day, more than 5,000 people the attended record-breaking event.

On Tuesday evening the National Academy of Engineering awarded its prestigious Draper Prize, the Nobel Prize of engineering, to Dr. Robert Langer of MIT for developing biocompatible polymer technologies that control the release of medicine over time. Dr. Langer's contributions have significantly advanced the controlled drug delivery industry.

The Future City Competition fosters interest in math, science, and engineering for seventh and eight-grade students using hands-on, real world applications to create and build a Future City. Regional competitions were held throughout the US, and culminate in 27 first place regional winning teams coming to Washington, D.C. for the national competition during Engineers' Week, February 17, 2002, though Wednesday, February 23, 2002. This was the largest number of regional competitors in the history of the Future City Competition. Many of the Future Cities incorporated aircraft and satellite technology, including some that were built in space and on asteroids. On Wednesday, February 20, 2002, Chippewa Middle School in Minnesota won the 2002 National Engineers Week Future City Competition national finals with the design and construction of "Apricus," their city of the future. They won a free trip to the U.S. Space Camp, Huntsville, AL, donated by the National Engineers Week Committee. In addition, 19 spacial awards were made by companies and organizations for specific accomplishments, including Best Energy Efficient City sponsored by the Association of Energy Engineers.

The National Engineers Week Steering Committee is a consortium of engineering societies and major U.S. corporations with one volunteer from each of the sponsoring societies and a representative from the corporate Honorary Chair. AIAA is a member. The chair for EWeek 2003, is the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) and the Honorary Chair is Lockheed Martin. The National Capital Section point of contact is Bruce Cranford, P.E., at 301-340-0052, [Bruce-Cranford-PE@attlgobal.net](mailto:Bruce-Cranford-PE@attlgobal.net).