

**Best Use of Aerospace Technology, sponsored by The
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) – National Capital Section (NCS):**
(By Bruce Cranford)

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 18, 2009 – A city of the future – The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) – National Capital Section (NCS), made a Special Award for the Best Use of Aerospace Technology to the team from the The Alexander Dawson School, Las Vegas, Nevada Region, Future City Name: Alpha Luna Prime, team members Michael Kwok, Zachary Schaffer, and Dayne Fernandez, Teacher was Camille McCue, Engineer Mentor Dr. David James, PE.

The AIAA NCS congratulates the team for their outstanding efforts.

Ed Yarbrough, Chair of the NCS AIAA, and Bruce Cranford made the presentation at the awards luncheon. The Awards consisted of a savings bond for each student team member, and a plaque highlighting the award for each member of the team. The AIAA NCS judges for the Best Use of Aerospace Engineering were Hugo Kruesi, Technical Principal, Aerojet Corporation and Joe Pelton, George Washington University.

Teams from 38 middle schools nationwide, winners of regional competitions in January, participated in the Future City National Finals, February 14-18 at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. All regional winning teams received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington for the National Finals. Future City is sponsored in part by Engineers Week, February 14-18, a consortium of more than 100 engineering societies and major corporations. For more information and a list of all the winners, visit <http://www.futurecity.org/>

Future City, in its 17th year, asks middle school students to create cities of the future, first on computer and then in large tabletop models. Working in teams with a teacher and volunteer engineer mentor, students create their cities using the SimCity 3000 TM video game donated to all participating schools by Electronic Arts, Inc. of Redwood City, California. They write a city abstract and an essay on using engineering to solve an important social. Then they present and defend their cities before engineer judges at the competition. More than 30,000 students from over 1,000 schools participated in 2008-09.

The students created detailed – often fantastic – cities of tomorrow that give intriguing insights to how young minds envision their future. At the same time, their bold designs and innovative concepts provide a refreshingly optimistic appreciation of how our nation can realistically deal with the many challenges facing its cities, including environmental disasters, crime, urban decay and urban sprawl.

Giving young people a glimpse into engineering is a key goal of Future City, says Carol Rieg, the program's past National Director. "Using SimCity and building the models are what catch the students' attention," says Rieg, who helped create the program. "Then they blossom into other aspects of Future City – why engineering is important, the need to plan, the challenges and responsibilities of running a city. They use what they know to solve real world problems and make the program their own."



2009 Future City Best Use of Aerospace Engineering award winners "The Alexander Dawson School, Las Vegas, Nevada Region, Future City Name: Alpha Luna Prime" presented by Bruce Cranford and Ed Yarbrough NCS Chair



2009 AIAA NCS Best Use of Aerospace Technology Award, Engineer Mentor Dr. David James, PE., Team members Michael Kwok, Zachary Schaffer, and Dayne Fernandez, Teacher Camille McCue,



2009 AIAA NCS Judges Hugo Kruesi, Technical Principal, Aerojet Corporation and Joe Pelton, George Washington University.