

**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 16, 2010 – 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 Elkhorn Ridge Middle School, Nebraska Region, Future City Name: Galileus, team members Jacob Givens, Jordan Hathaway, and Raymond Paetz, Teacher was Jennifer Hoffman, Engineer Mentor Diane Jones. From the students “ In every city there is the potential for disaster. Our city in space is no different. Disasters such as asteroid showers, loss of gravitational field, or overcrowding each have the possibility of threatening Galileus and its population of 800,000. Specially designed escape pods were created in Galileus in case of such an emergency or for low-income housing. These circular pods are constructed using our signature Poly-Carbon Plastic and a number of other environmentally safe and energy efficient materials. The use of environmentally safe products and recyclable material is critical to Galileus as it is its own planet”.

The AIAA NCS congratulates the team for their outstanding efforts.

Rick Ohlemacher, 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 Joe Pelton, George Washington University and Bruce Cranford.

Teams from 39 middle schools nationwide, winners of regional competitions in January, participated in the Future City National Finals, February 13-16 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, 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/>

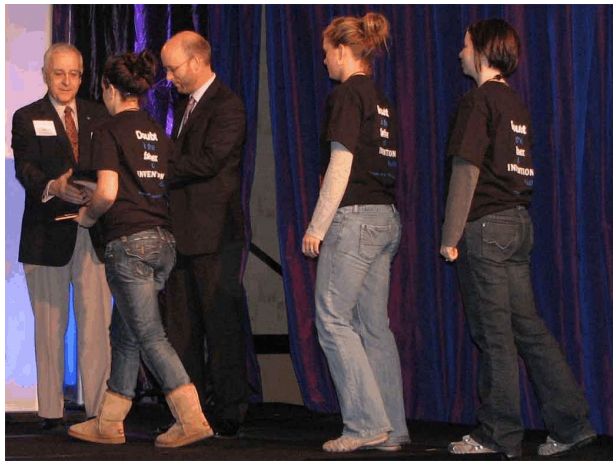
Future City, in its 18th year, asks middle school students to create cities of the future, first on computer and then in large tabletop models. Working in teams with a teacher and volunteer engineer mentor, students create their cities using the SimCity 3000 TM video game donated to all participating 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 33,000 students from over 1,100 schools participated in 2009-10.

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.

(Pictures by Bruce Cranford)



Rick Ohlemacher NCS Chair with the 2010 AIAA NCS Best Use of Aerospace Technology Award Winner The Elkhorn Ridge Middle School, Nebraska Region, Future City Name: Galileus, team members Jacob Givens, Jordan Hathaway, and Raymond Paetz, Teacher was Jennifer Hoffman, Engineer Mentor Diane Jones



2010 AIAA NCS Best Use of Aerospace Technology Awards presented to the Elkhorn Ridge Middle School by Rick Ohlemacher NCS Chair (Center) and Bruce Cranford (Left)



2010 AIAA NCS Judges,
Bruce Cranford, Joe Pelton