

November14, 2014

Dear Teacher:

Once again it is time for the University of Evansville's annual Balsawood Bridge Building Competition and we are glad to celebrate our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary hosting this event. As always, UE's American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is very excited at the opportunity to interact with the community and get younger people involved in engineering. We ask each of you to encourage your students to sign up for this activity. It is a great experience not only for students but for parents, teachers and all of us here at UE. This year the competition will be held at the **Evansville Museum on February 28, 2015**. Additionally, this year the event will be hosted by both the Student Branch of the ASCE as well as the Professional Branch.

This contest has been an integral part of ASCE's community involvement for the past several years. The competition consists of an individual or team of two participants building a bridge using the design specifications and the balsa wood that will be provided. The bridges are then displayed and loaded to failure. (Schedule will be provided with the rules and materials). The bridges will be scored and ranked by their efficiency (load to weight ratio). The bridge from each division (I. k-5; II. 6-8; III. 9-12) will be declared the winner for that division. Awards for second and third in each division will also be given along with certificates for all participants. Also, a scholarship will be given to the high school Junior with the highest ranking bridge.

The pick-up date for the rules and materials of the competition will be **Saturday December 6, 2014**, from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** in the **Koch Center Lobby North**. Parking is available on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> in the front oval or the lot behind Koch Center. The material to be used for building the bridge will be provided as well as a set of rules for each participant. ASCE members will be available at this time to answer any additional questions.

The registration fee of **\$15 for individuals** and **\$25 for a team of two** covers the cost of the wood and a T-shirt for each participant. Please pay your registration fees on the pick-up day.

Again, we ask that you strongly encourage every student to participate in this competition. In the past, teachers who have offered prizes or extra credit in science class for participation have had excellent results. It is a wonderful opportunity for both the participant and our Civil Engineering students here at UE. I have enclosed a preliminary sign up sheet for your convenience. Please return this sheet to me by **December 6, 2014** so that we can order wood and materials to have available at pick up.

Please FAX the signup sheet to (812) 488-2780 c/o Dr. Mark Valenzuela, or email to the address provided below.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to call or contact us via email. We also have a Facebook page: University of Evansville Balsawood Bridge Competition. Hope to hear from you soon!

**Stuart Watson**  
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For more information, please see: <http://asce.evansville.edu/bwb.asp>