



NOW YOU CAN ALWAYS  
LOOK YOUR BEST!

Mirror Mirror  
skin and beauty products for women and men

[CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

Other editions: [Mobile](#) | [News Feeds](#) | [E-Newsletters](#)

Find it: [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Apartments](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#)



All [Local News](#) [Calendar](#) [Jobs](#) [More »](#)

SEARCH BURLINGTON  



[HOME](#) [NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [OPINION](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [MULTIMEDIA](#) [CLASSIFIEDS](#) [WEATHER](#) [OBITUARIES](#) [CUSTOMER SERVICE](#) [WEB CAMS](#) [HEALTH](#)

Quick Links: [Baby photo contest](#) [Green Mountain Moms](#) [B Scene](#) [Blogs](#) [Celebrations](#) [New Site FAQ](#) [Get Published](#) [Crossword](#)

 [Comment, blog & share photos](#)  
[Login](#) | [Become a member](#)

POWERED BY YOU AND The **Burlington Free Press**

## Engineering competition seeks to entice young Vermonters

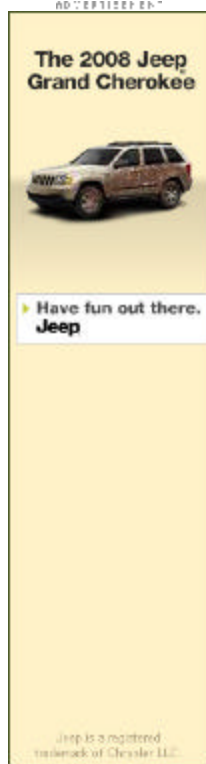
BY NANCY REMSEN • FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER • JULY 17, 2008

[Post a Comment](#) [Recommend](#) [Print this page](#) [E-mail this article](#)

SHARE THIS ARTICLE: [Del.icio.us](#) [Facebook](#) [Digg](#) [Reddit](#) [Newsvine](#) [What's this?](#)

MONTPELIER – Two federal agencies and three technology companies are offering Vermont teachers and students a multimillion dollar opportunity to use top-line software, work with engineering experts and try their hands at improving the [energy efficiency](#) of aircraft.

ADVERTISEMENT



The 2008 Jeep Grand Cherokee

Have fun out there. Jeep

Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler LLC

Wednesday, Vermont became the first state to sign on to the Real World Design Challenge, an initiative to entice more students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The challenge has been developed cooperatively by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Aviation Administration, Parametric Technology Corp., [Hewlett-Packard](#) Corp. and Flomerics Inc.

The private software companies will donate software to any school that chooses to participate. Each trained teacher would have access to nearly \$1 million worth of software to use to teach basic skills and for the competition. There is no limit on the number of schools that can sign up.

The federal agencies will provide mentors linked via [computer](#) to participating schools.

The motivation for giving away millions of dollars in software and professionals' time is simple, said Bill Valdez, director of work force development for teachers and students at the U.S. Department of [Energy](#).

"We don't have enough U.S. students involved in engineering and science to support industry," he said. "This competition is designed to bring engineering into high schools and middle schools in a way that excites students."

Andrew Giroux, a sophomore at Champlain Valley Union High School, said he could hardly wait to get involved with the Real World Design Challenge this fall. Participating schools will receive details in October about the challenge they must try to solve. They will have until March to come up with their solutions.

"I'm sure this program will inspire the students of today," Giroux said. He's already felt the lure of design challenges, having participated in creative thinking competitions such as Odyssey of the Mind from a young age. This past year he started an engineering club at CVU and has used computer-aided design software to bring to life design ideas.

A challenge helps students see the relevance of information they are learning, said Jeff Tobrocke, technology teacher at Edmunds Middle School in Burlington and a member of the [Vermont](#) Design and Technology Education Association. He said plans are to look for a group of interested middle school students to try to tackle the challenge.

Two training sessions have been scheduled for interested Vermont teachers, and more sessions could be held if there were interest, officials said.

The partnership expects to enlist nine other states to join Vermont in the first year of the challenge. Schools in all 50 states will be invited to take part next year, Valdez said. The competition has two tiers. First Vermont teams compete among themselves, then the winning team – selected by experts – would take part in a national challenge.

"We are really happy to be the launch state," Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie said. A pilot and an engineer, Dubie played a role in getting Vermont involved early.

### More News Headlines

- Habitat's many hands
- Welch in select company (9)
- Winooski City Manager Handverger to keep his job (1)
- Rebuilding a home, and a life
- Burlington police broaden recruiting

### Latest Headlines

- Flood watch on with more rain in forecast
- Missing Island Pond boy found safe
- Trial begins in minister's case against S. Burlington police (23)
- Winooski City Manager Handverger to keep his job
- Burlington man, two others arrested for cocaine possession

Gov. Jim Douglas thanked the partners for offering a program and said it will contribute to his effort to build a strong, more innovative economy.

"Other countries are producing more innovators," Douglas said. "We can't afford to fall behind."

The problem given to students in the fall won't be theoretical, but a real, current design dilemma.

"This contest is not made up," Valdez said. He predicted winning teams might even come up with ideas that could be patented.

Shelia Bauer, national aviation education program manager with the FAA, agreed. "I have no doubt that the winners are going to come up with something spectacular."

Contact Nancy Remsen at 651-4888 or [nremsen@bfp.burlingtonfreepress.com](mailto:nremsen@bfp.burlingtonfreepress.com)

## In Your Voice

READ REACTIONS TO THIS STORY

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

1000 characters left



Partners: Jobs: [CareerBuilder.com](#) Cars: [Cars.com](#) Apartments: [Apartments.com](#) Shopping: [ShopLocal.com](#)

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Weather](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Web Cams](#) | [Health](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2007 ...