

# Chicago Engineers' Foundation

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This year marks another exciting year for the Chicago Engineers' Foundation (CEF).

Through the Incentive Awards, CEF has awarded over \$92,700 to over 100 students. The number of graduating high school seniors who qualified for the CEF Incentive award increased 31% over last year. This increase reflects CEF volunteers' work visiting Chicago high schools to encourage qualified high school seniors to study engineering and apply for our awards. These students face four or five grueling years of engineering studies.

The Incentive Awards began in 1963 as modest grants to ten Chicago high school graduates of \$100. Over the years, the number and amount of the annual awards increased and were expanded to grants to continuing college students. In the last ten years, CEF has awarded \$654,000 to 360 collegiate engineering students from Chicago.

In September 2014, the ULC Bow Tie Society held its First Annual Bow Tie Society Dinner, benefiting CEF. A string quartet provided music throughout the evening, while guests dined on surf and turf and enjoyed a special dessert created by the ULCC Executive Chef. This event raised over \$1,200 for the Chicago Engineers' Foundation Incentive Awards. We need your continued support to make sure that the Engineers' Foundation will be there providing students a hand up, encouraging them, not just their first year, but throughout their college studies.

CEF is committed to expanding its outreach not only to graduating high school seniors, but future engineers of all ages. The CEF High School Outreach continues to grow with 20 schools visited in 2014, and we are scheduling 10 additional high school visits with freshman, sophomores and juniors. As well as outreach to high school students, CEF supports programs like the Future City Competition and Barreto Club Science Fair.

The Future City Competition is a national contest for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Each team of students works with an educator and engineer mentor to develop cities using SimCity software; research then write solutions to engineering problems; use recycled materials to build tabletop scale models; and then in January present their ideas before judges at the Regional Competition. The regional winners go on to represent their region at

the National Final in Washington, DC. The idea of the Future City Competition is to let the youth use their creative minds to build future cities.

The competition has five components. Before the Regional Competition teams must complete the Virtual City Design, Research Essay and City Narrative. While at the Regional Competition, teams are then judged on the Model and Team Presentation. The Virtual City Design and Research Essay are both worth 60 points, the City Narrative is worth 20 points and the Model and Team Presentation are each worth 70 points, for a total of 280 possible points. Each team's five components are added together to determine the top team. Each region sends their top team to the National Finals in Washington, DC.

The Future City Competition is such a great opportunity for students because it gives them hands-on experience of what engineers do. The students engage in the engineering design process, which involves identifying problems, brainstorming ideas, designing solutions, testing, retesting and building, and sharing their results. The students gain skills through Future City by:

- Engaging in writing, public speaking, problem solving and time management
- Applying math and science concepts to real-world issues
- Performing research and find solutions to engineering challenges
- Learning about different types of engineering and discover career options.
- Becoming aware of how their communities work and growing to be better citizens
- Building strong teamwork skills

At the Future City Regional Competition in January, Board Director and past CEF award recipient Erik Cempel was a final judge. Students from the Northwestern Engineers Without Borders Chapter, including our CEF Incentive Award Recipient Elad Deiss-Yehiely, were judges. Chicago Engineers' Foundation past-president, Nancy Ross, was also a judge.

On February 19, more than 130 guests attended the Casino de Monte Carlo event to raise money for the Chicago Engineers' Foundation. Guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres while sipping on complimentary

Hendrick's Gin and Balvenie Scotch drinks. Guests were entertained by playing at the roulette and blackjack tables, bidding on spectacular silent auction items, enjoyed the wine grab bag and sponsored engineering students with personalized grants. The Casino de Monte Carlo event was a huge success, raising \$12,000! Lady Luck was surely on our side!

The Engineers' Foundation has many steadfast supporters among the Club members, and we appreciate you and your continued support.

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