MICHIGAN
Department of
Transportation

TRAC PROGRAM
SUMMER NEWS

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MDOT TRAnsportation and Civil Engineering (TRAC)

Program Overview:

Since 2004, The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been offering the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Transportation and Civil Engineering (TRAC) Program to teachers in Michigan. TRAC is a hands-on education program designed for integration into science, math and social science classes.

The TRAC program engages high school and middle school students in solving real-world problems, such as designing bridges, building magnetic-levitation trains, or analyzing the environmental and economic effects of building a highway.
In addition to the TRAC core curriculum, MDOT offers an annual Bridge Design and Build Bridge Challenge that is available to all schools that participate in the TRAC Program. This year, MDOT’s 8th Annual Design and Build Bridge Challenge took place at the Amway Grand Plaza on April 19. Four hundred and fifty-six students from across Michigan competed for awards and top honors.

The competition requires students to complete an engineering proposal, provide a presentation in front of a panel of executive level engineer judges, and construct a bridge that is tested for strength-to-weight efficiency.

As an extended activity, AASHTO offers all TRAC schools an opportunity to compete at the national level. Nine teams from across the country are invited to compete in this prestigious event. On May 25, five Michigan teams traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, where they toured some of Iowa’s transportation facilities and competed in the national challenge. Michigan students swept the competition, winning all three of the age categories!

The Michigan teams that participated at the national level were from: Negaunee High School (two teams), Lenawee Intermediate School District (two teams), and Portage Central Middle School.

MDOT will host the 9th Annual Design and Build Bridge Challenge at the Amway Grand Plaza on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. The national competition will be held in Maryland.
For more information, visit: www.michigan.gov/mdot-trac.

2016 National Bridge Challenge – Des Moines, Iowa:

7th and 8th Grade Winners
Portage Central Middle School

9th and 10th Grade
Winners
Lenawee ISD

11th and 12th Grade
Winners
Negaunee High School
Michigan’s future engineers at work!

**TRAC Internship Opportunities:**

The 2016 TRAC Program includes 24 statewide internship positions. Students participate in competitive interviews to secure the paid internship positions. Once hired, the students learn what it is like to work as a civil engineer on projects such as design, construction, traffic and safety, geotechnical, and surveying. Upon successful completion of the program, students may receive a $2,500 scholarship to study civil engineering.

**Scholarship Partners:**

Scholarships are offered after students successfully complete the TRAC Internship Program and when they enter into a college of engineering. Scholarship money is applied toward the student’s endeavor to become a civil engineer. The following universities/colleges offer $2,500 scholarships to successful TRAC interns:

* Western Michigan University
* Wayne State University
* University of Detroit Mercy
* Michigan State University
* Calvin College of Engineering
* Lawrence Technological University
* Michigan Technological University
The above mentioned institutions offer scholarships to accredited civil engineering programs and their generosity is greatly appreciated. Nine students will be receiving scholarships this year!
ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

MDOT Statewide Internship Program

Who: Graduating High School Seniors
Why: Learn about Civil Engineering and earn $12/hour
When: June 20 - August 5, 2016
Applications Due April 29, 2016

Civil Engineering Internship Program Scholarship Opportunities

To apply, visit our Website at: www.michigan.gov/mdot-trac-internship

For more information, contact:
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Thank you for your continued support of the TRAC Program!