



Indiana School Wins Grand Prize at 28th Annual Future City Competition

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Bentley Systems Sponsors the Annual Competition, which Challenges Middle School Students to Design a Future City and Overcome Engineering Challenges

WASHINGTON – March 19, 2020 – Bentley Systems, Incorporated, a leading global provider of comprehensive software and digital twin cloud services for the design, construction, and operations of infrastructure, and DiscoverE, a network of volunteers that introduces students, parents, and educators to engineering and provides hands-on engineering experiences, announced that Yemoja, a city of the future designed by students from Norwell Middle School in Ossian, Indiana, won the Grand Prize at the 2020 Future City Competition.

The competition finals, held at the Hyatt Regency Washington in Washington, D.C., is organized by DiscoverE and sponsored in part by Bentley. Sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students from 1,500 schools in more than 40 regions, as well as teams from Canada, have imagined, designed, and built cities for the 2019-2020 Future City Competition. This year's theme, Clean Water: Tap into Tomorrow, challenged students to identify an urban water system threat and develop a futuristic solution to ensure a reliable supply of clean drinking water.

Students from Norwell Middle School, including Jordyn Xayyachack, Teagan Lesley, Madeline McCabe, Nevada Lenwell, Morgan Batdorff, Connor Reed, Cassandra Coyne, Eli Randol, and Lukas Mashuda, paired with educators Bill Bostain, Stephanie Scott, and Bonnie Dickey as well as volunteer mentor Albert Bostain, won a trip to Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala., as well as \$7,500 provided by Bentley, for their school's STEM program.

Maggie Dressel, program manager of Future City, said the Norwell Middle School team won due to its innovative approach to tackling a problem faced by many real-world cities. "In the course of their research, the team identified plastics as one of the issues," she said. "In an effort to combat that, they did an in-school campaign on plastic pollution and collected 5,000 plastic bottle caps, melted them down, and used the material to create the model."

Bentley CIO Claire Rutkowski gave a presentation during the finals that discussed the challenges future cities will face, including urbanization, climate change, water and food scarcity, and population growth. She said some innovations on the way that will improve future cities and help address challenges include digital twins to help design and manage assets, 3D printing to quickly produce individual components and entire buildings, and new high-tech materials, such as concrete that can heal itself through bacteria that generates calcite as it gets wet, or sidewalks that generate power through the kinetic energy of foot pressure.

Rutkowski also had advice for the budding engineers in the room. "Four out of five of you, by the time you graduate from college, will be doing a job that hasn't even been invented yet," she said. "Work hard, and don't be afraid to be the one who steps out and says, 'Hey, why don't we try making a sidewalk that creates electricity?' Be creative and innovative."

To download videos of the award presentation, please click on the following links.

<https://bentley.sharefile.com/d-se108b5d4a6f40e9a>

<https://bentley.sharefile.com/d-sfef558bba13402d8>

To access Claire Rutkowski's presentation, please click [here](#).

To download images of the winning team, please click on the following links.

https://www.bentley.com/-/media/Images/Press Release Images/2020/Future_Cities_Winning_Team

https://www.bentley.com/-/media/Images/Press Release Images/2020/Future_Cities_Winning_Team_with_Bentley

https://www.bentley.com/-/media/Images/Press Release Images/2020/Future_Cities_First_Place_Team_with_Bentley_Team

About DiscoverE

DiscoverE is leading a growing volunteer movement that inspires and informs present and future generations to discover engineering. Our network of volunteers in the US and abroad is drawn from the DiscoverE coalition of more than 100 professional societies, major corporations and government agencies. Together we meet a vital need: introducing students, parents, and educators to engineering, engaging them in hands-on engineering experiences and making science and math relevant. For more information, visit www.discovere.org.

About Bentley Systems

Bentley Systems is a leading global provider of software solutions to engineers, architects, geospatial professionals, constructors, and owner-operators for the design, construction, and operations of infrastructure. Bentley's *MicroStation*-based engineering and BIM applications, and its digital twin cloud services, advance the project delivery (*ProjectWise*) and the asset performance (*AssetWise*) of transportation and other public works, utilities, industrial and resources plants, and commercial and institutional facilities.

Bentley Systems employs more than 3,500 colleagues and generates annual revenues of more than \$700 million in 172 countries. From inception in 1984, the company has remained majority-owned by its five founding Bentley brothers. www.bentley.com

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Christine Byrne
Director, Media Relations
1-203-805-0432