Inspire the Future: Be a Mentor for the ESD Michigan Regional Future City Competition

The Engineering Society of Detroit has embarked on an ambitious mission to bring math, science and engineering into every middle school classroom in the City of Detroit this fall. We are introducing our Future City Competition to all Detroit middle schools in the hopes that it will spark students’ interest in these vital core subjects, help them take ownership of their future and allow them to continue to study, live and work in Michigan. We have over 30 schools in Detroit and the surrounding suburbs in need of mentor participation.

Mentor’s Role:
• Mentors typically spend an hour or two a week or every other week between now and January advising their team
• Acts as an advisor, working with the team to provide input and technical assistance through all phases of the competition
• By working with an engineer mentor, students learn first hand how engineers turn ideas into reality
• Mentoring can also be done by a team of two or three engineers or technical professionals, making it possible for the mentor to be available more often to assist the students and reducing the amount of time each mentor devotes to the project
• Mentors do not need to be engineers, but have a technical background sufficient to understand the project and be able to coach the team

Students will:
• Work as a team under the guidance of an engineer or technical professional and a teacher
• Develop a project plan to guide team activities
• Use SimCity software to design their city
• Demonstrate writing skills through a narrative explaining their city’s key features and a research essay
• Build a table top scale model using recycled materials
• Enhance communication skills through a team presentation
• For more information, or to volunteer to mentor a team, contact Sue Ruffner at (248) 353-0735, ext. 117, or sruffner@esd.org.