



Governor Encourages Students In Design Challenge

Governor Kathleen Sebelius took a break from all the vice-president talk today to encourage Kansas kids to enter a technology contest.

The governor, along with engineers from Cessna Aircraft and Hewlett-Packard along with state education agencies are encouraging kids to sign up with the US Department of Energy's "Real World Design Challenge".

The challenge gives high school students the opportunity to use computer software to help increase aircraft performance and reduce

operating costs.

Dr. Ralph Coppola who works for the company that designs the software used in the competitions say getting kids involved with this technology will help the country in the long run. Dr. Coppola says, "We need the work force. We absolutely need the work force. Without the students in the work force, we're not going to be able to compete in a global economy and we need them for Kansas and we need them for the nation."

Students and teachers in high schools across the state will work in teams and compete both locally and nationally.

The winner will be announced early next year and will then go on to represent Kansas at the final competition in the nation's capital.

There's an added bonus too. Teachers who participate will get millions of dollars worth of the software free of charge to use in classrooms.

Story Created: Aug 21, 2008 at 2:54 PM CDT

Story Updated: Aug 21, 2008 at 2:54 PM CDT