COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO LAUNCH BOATS, CARS AND CAREERS AT MESA FALL FLING 2005

On Nov. 17 and 18, approximately 200 Colorado high school students will test their skills at building boats and multi-purpose vehicles of their own design during the Colorado Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Fall Fling 2005 at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The two-day event, sponsored by SpectraLink, is an annual tradition for high-school students participating in the Colorado MESA program. Hosted by the Multicultural Engineering Program at CU-Boulder, this year's event will feature a variety of hands-on activities in which students can apply their knowledge of math and science. The Fall Fling is the highlight of the year for many Colorado MESA students and is being held at CU-Boulder for the fifth consecutive year.

On Thursday evening, Nov. 17, students will work in groups, with assistance from SpectraLink engineers and CU college students, to build boats out of milk cartons, wood furring strips and duct tape. They will then try to navigate the boats across the CU recreation center swimming pool. The boat-building contest will be held from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

In another hands-on engineering activity the following morning, students will compete in a variety of events designed to test the power and performance of “cars” they previously designed and built in their schools. The “multi-purpose vehicles” are powered by the energy of a standard mouse trap spring and will be required to climb a 30 degree incline, race over a “drag strip” course and stop at a predetermined point. This event will be held at the CU Student Recreation Center from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Winners of this statewide event will go on to compete in the MESA USA National Competition to be held in Anaheim, Calif. in June.

In addition, the two-day program provides an opportunity for high-school students to meet and talk with CU students about college life, tour the campus including the engineering and science labs, and obtain information about college admissions and financial aid.

Colorado MESA is part of a national network of MESA organizations, which seek to identify the academic potential of minority and at-risk students as early as elementary school, and continue to work with them through high school, helping them meet college entrance requirements. Formed in 1980 with a student enrollment of 30, Colorado MESA now has 3,000 participating students from 134 schools throughout the state.

"Our MESA program is truly dedicated to giving every young person a chance to have the best possible education and career," said Gloria Nelson, Executive Director of Colorado MESA.
“Without a program like this, many talented young students might not even consider a high-tech college degree, let alone have the career and educational guidance they need to pursue one.”

SpectraLink recently formed partnerships with Colorado MESA and the University of Colorado’s Multicultural Engineering Program.

“SpectraLink has been a part of the local high-tech community for 15 years, and we believe that education, particularly in the areas of math, science and engineering, is fundamental to advancing both the technology industry and our country’s competitiveness in the global economy,” said John Elms, SpectraLink president and CEO. “SpectraLink is delighted to team with MESA and CU’s Multicultural Engineering program to host this exciting educational opportunity.”

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