

Pierce Middle School, Grosse Pointe Park,
Wins the **Future City Competition - Best Project Plan Award**,
sponsored by the *PMI Educational Foundation*

ESD Hosts Michigan Regional – Future City Competition

The Engineering Society of Detroit [ESD] is the sponsor and host of the Michigan Regional Future City Competition. The Michigan Regional Future City Competition was held on January 23, 2023, at Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan. In February, the winning team from each region competes at the national finals in Washington, DC. Michigan's first place team from St. John Lutheran School [Rochester]-and second place team from Pierce Middle School [Grosse Pointe Park] will receive an all-expense-paid trip for the teacher, mentor and three presenting students to Washington, DC, to compete in the finals.

What is Future City?

Future City is a cross-curricular educational program where students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades imagine, design, and build cities of the future. Over four months, students work as a team with an educator and volunteer mentor to design a virtual city using SimCity software; research and write an essay addressing this year's theme; build a model of their city using recycled materials; write a brief narrative promoting their city; and present their city before a panel of judges at a Regional Competition in January. Regional winners go on to represent their region at the national competition in Washington, DC, in February.

Who participates.

The Michigan Regional Future City Competition is open to Michigan students in grades 6th, 7th, and 8th who are from the same school, a home school environment (a Home School Affidavit form will need to be completed), or are members of a nationally, regionally, or state recognized youth-focused organization, such as the Boy or Girl Scouts; Boys and Girls Clubs; 4-H, etc. The competition is team-based, and each team consists of at least three students, an educator and a volunteer mentor. A team can include an entire class or as few as three students.

At the 2023 FCC-Michigan Regional Competition, 19 student teams from multiple middle schools from around the state of Michigan competed.

How Does the Competition Work?

Future City restructured its framework to incorporate **project management principles** and the **engineering design process**. Teams will work through the stages of the engineering design process and apply specific project management methods to help them complete each of the required competition deliverables. There are 5 program deliverables with the following the point structure:

1. **Virtual City:** Students design a virtual city using SimCity software and present their city's progress via a slideshow presentation. Note that teams will *not* be uploading their actual game file, but rather a PDF slideshow. *(54 points)*
2. **City Description:** Students describe the unique attributes of their city and provide their solution to this year's Waste Not, Want Not challenge. This 1,500-word essay combines the former Research Essay and City Narrative deliverables. *(60 points)*
3. **City Model:** Students build a physical model of their future city (to scale) using recycled materials. (Note: No change from past years.) *(70 points)*

4. **City Presentation:** Students give a 7-minute presentation about their city followed by a short Q&A session. (Note: no change from past years.) (70 points)
5. **Project Plan:** Students complete a project plan to help them plan and organize their project. (10 points)

Special Award for *Best Project Plan*

For 2023, 21 organizations sponsored a special award for some aspect of the competition. This year, the special award for the **Best Project Plan** was funded by a grant from the PMI Educational Foundation.

The judging for the Best Project Plan involved a review of the competing Team's 4-part project plan submitted electronically. This judging involved a three-step process. The first step reviewed the completeness of the Team's overall submittal. The second step evaluated the quality of the student team's project schedule [part II]. The third step assessed the students' lessons learned from using project management as discussed in part IV. Points were awarded for each of the three parts.

The judging for the Best Project Plan was conducted by Prof. Bill Moylan, PhD, PMP, FESD, DTM.

For more information about the Future City Competition sponsored by ESD, contact **Elana Shelef**, Director of Corporate Relations & Education Outreach, The Engineering Society of Detroit, 20700 Civic Center Drive, Suite 450, Southfield, MI 48076, telephone: (248) 353-0735, ext. 119, email: eshelef@esd.org



Best Project Plan Award

*Sponsored by the Project Management Institute Educational Foundation
Pierce Middle School, Grosse Pointe Park*