Future Engineers, Scientists and Technicians Go Head-to-Head in a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition

Witness six metro area high school teams demonstrate their prowess as they compete against each other’s Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) during the fifth annual Wisconsin MATE Regional ROV Contest from 8am to 5pm, Sun., March 30, at Discovery World Pilot House, 500 N. Harbor Dr., with a video feed to the UWM Klotsche Center Pool, 3409 N. Downer Ave.

This year marks the first time that five middle school ROV Scout Teams also are competing.

Wisconsin’s regional 2014 Building the Water Generation ROV competition teams were challenged to design and develop ROVs to identify an unknown shipwreck recently discovered in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (TBNMS) waters, collect microbial samples, and remove trash and debris from the shipwreck and surrounding area.

Students with a strong interest in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) comprise this year’s ROV Ranger Teams: Lakeview Technology Academy, Pleasant Prairie; Ozaukee and Oostburg High Schools, Oostburg and Fredonia; Prairie High School, Racine; West Bend High School, West Bend; New School for Community Service, Milwaukee; and Nathan Hale High School, West Allis.

The regional competition features the following five ROV Scout Teams: Deer Creek Intermediate School, St. Francis; Lake Shore Middle School, Mequon; University School of Milwaukee, Milwaukee; Indian Community School, Franklin; and Oostburg Middle School, Oostburg.

The winning Ranger team is eligible to compete at the 13th annual MATE international competition held on June 26-28, 2014 at the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Alpena, Michigan. The team will receive support toward travel for the international competition. The first-place Scout is awarded a trophy, competition ribbons and a SparkFun Inventor’s Kit.
Five years ago, The Building the Water Generation ROV Competition for the State of Wisconsin was developed in partnership with the Milwaukee Water Council, UWM-School of Freshwater Sciences, UWM-School of Continuing Education and Discovery World. The Building the Water Generation ROV Competition is a regional site to the international Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE).

Besides raising student awareness of freshwater career opportunities, it provides the means of developing technical, communication, teamwork, problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Public/private sector experts also are sought out to mentor regional teams on the United Nations Compact issues (aquaculture, phosphorus, storm water, waste treatment, new technologies, contaminants and integrated solutions), and connect students and teachers with working professionals in the water sector.

Other pluses are that ROV Teams are matched with water sector working professionals that volunteer their time and technical expertise as mentors, technical assistants, and competition judges.


###

About the School of Continuing Education: As one of 14 schools and colleges that comprise the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, SCE offers participants an assortment of over 1,500 programs and 600 practitioner instructors. With nearly 20,000 participants each year, SCE is the largest provider of noncredit continuing education in southeastern Wisconsin. Its mission is to generate knowledge and learning opportunities for those interested in developing professional skills in business, technology and human services, enriching their lives with classes in arts and humanities or those who are simply looking for a new intellectual challenge.