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Subject: Local students earn first place and scholarships at surveying competition
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The following is a press release about Nathaniel Ovans of Big Rapids and Nick Battjes of Stanwood, Ferris State University students whose surveying engineering team earned first place at a recent competition.

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Ferris Surveying Engineering students earn first place, scholarships

BIG RAPIDS – A team of Surveying Engineering students from Ferris State University took first place for surveying and mapping at the American Congress competition on Surveying and Mapping in St. Louis, Mo. The five-member team included Nathaniel Ovans of Big Rapids and Nick Battjes of Stanwood, Surveying Engineering majors.

Ovans and Battjes participated in the annual event with classmates Mike Tyler of Fremont, Nathan Plooster of Grandville and Krag Caverly of Caro. This is the second time Surveying Engineering students from Ferris have earned this honor, the first time was in 2006 at the same convention in Orlando, Fla.

This year, the team received a glass trophy with the university's name engraved on it, along with four of the students receiving scholarships that totaled \$7,500.

Ferris College of Technology Surveying Engineering department Chair Sayed Hashimi said the contest, which is hosted by the National Society of Professional Surveyors, is held annually to promote education and comradery between universities.

The competition included three tasks. The students had to write a scientific article about railroad surveying – including railroad geometry and spirals math – performing highway curve calculations and staking out a highway curve on the ground using field surveying techniques, Hashimi said.

In attendance at the event were surveying professionals representing the private sector, government agencies, students and faculty from other universities across the U.S. and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

- 30 -

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