



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
NEWS SERVICES & MEDIA RELATIONS
HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE PROGRAM

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Local students participate in teambuilding competition

BIG RAPIDS – Several local high school students recently competed in the annual Spaghetti Bridge Competition at Ferris State University. The program spanned two days in the Rankin Student Center’s Dome Room.

A total of 22 schools were entered in the competition, which featured a written report, oral presentation, authentic bridge design and load-bearing competition.

Members of each of the top three teams received partial scholarships to Ferris and the top five teams were awarded cash prizes. The actual bridge building occurred on the second day of competition when each team constructed the strongest structure possible using just two pounds of dry spaghetti and glue. The bridges were then tested for weight-bearing capacity.

Winning locally was the team of **Mary Schwartz, Josh Emington, Rachael Schimmels, Trevor Seaman, and Chelsey Wells** from Reed City High School with first place overall in the competition (a combined total of first in weight bearing, fourth in authentic bridge, and third in oral competition). The “Precision Pasta Engineers” team included coaches **Ted Lehnen and Marie Calabrese**. All students on this team won \$2,000 scholarships for Ferris.

Also winning from Reed City High School as second place overall (third in weight bearing, third in authentic bridge, and second in oral competition) was the team of **Josh Neubecker, Aaron Pooley, Justin Schneidt, and Kyle Thering**. They were also coached by Lehnen and Calabrese. The students from “Coyote Bridge Builders” won \$1,000 scholarships.

In third place overall (second in weight bearing, and third in written) was Big Rapids High School’s “Swansabie’s Pirates” team, consisting of **Keysha Allen, Dan Langenberg, Jacob Swanson, and Ben Wyman**. The students were coached by **Ron Swanson** and received \$500 scholarships.

Additional local winners also included Chippewa Hills High School’s second entry, “The Purple Cobras,” (fourth in weight bearing) with members **Jeff Charron, Brandon Simon, Jeff Stadfield, and Matt Sweeney**, who were also coached by Grinnell and Ray. Also participating were students from Crossroads Charter Academy (“The Marvelous Mongering Bridge-making Men of Milan”) including **Name Miller, Charles Murphy, Adam Rempf, and Ben VanEck**. The team, fourth place winners of the written competition and first place winners in the oral competition, was coached by **Jim Rumpf and Jeanne Murphy**.

Other local participants in the competition included two Morley-Stanwood High School teams. “Use Your Noodle,” coached by **Laura Forbes**, included students **Stephen Carmichael, April Fuller, Matthew Moutox, and Dustin Howe**; and “It’s a Noodle Thing,” consisting of **Tracy Kilbourne and Rick Maguire**, also coached by Forbes. Chippewa Hills High School’s “The Real Purple Cows” team included **Kyle Butts, Alex Mortensen, Corey Schafer and Josh Tice**, coached by **Ryan Grinnell and Andy Ray**. Also competing locally was the Mecosta-Osceola Math/Science Center team “Rainbow Bridge,” consisting of coaches **Matt Williams and Laurie Tomczyk**, and students **Ana Lyons, Ben Shewan, Kristina Stilson, and Brittany VanSnepton**.



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Photos, past winners, a transcript of the rules and more is available online at the Spaghetti Bridge Competition website, located at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/othersrv/sbridges>.

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