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TO: Greater Cincinnati Area High School Physics Teachers
FROM: CEE Department
DATE: December 2008
REF.: 2009 Bridge Testing for High School Students

For faculty mentors at high schools that previously participated in the UC Bridge Building Competition.

Our apologies for the late notification about the 2009 Bridge Building Competition. Unfortunately, there are some unique aspects of the planning that have complicated the process. Because Dr. Baseheart, the originator of the competition, will be retiring next year, efforts have been underway to identify others here at UC that would assume responsibility for the numerous different aspects involved with holding the half day event for over 450 high school students, their faculty and guests.

The College of Engineering Herman Schneider Foundation came through with the funding needed for the event, and the equipment and student volunteers for testing the participant's bridges have been committed. However, the numerous other aspects of the competition day activities have not come together. Therefore, we find it necessary to significantly curtail the activities for 2009. We are hopeful to resolve the issues and offer a newly formatted, significantly improved comprehensive Bridge Building Competition in 2010.

For 2009, each school that has previously participated in our Bridge Building Competition is offered the opportunity to schedule a campus visit to our Structures Laboratory where their bridges will be tested and ranked (only by comparison to the bridges tested for that particular school). Each school is limited to 50 students and 50 bridges. The time required to perform tests on 50 bridges is estimated to take approximately 120 minutes. Lunch will NOT be provided. Obviously, we can only accommodate only one school on a given day. This at least does afford each school flexibility in scheduling the competition into their academic plans. The rules for the bridges will be the same ones posted for our 2008 bridge competition on our website:

www.eng.uc.edu/bridge/.

For additional information, and to schedule a day and time for testing your high school's bridges, faculty mentors need to contact Dr. G.A. Rassati via e-mail at gian.rassati@uc.edu

