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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peter and Brian Chen Win 2008 West Virginia West Point Bridge Design

HUNTINGTON, W.VA. – Peter Chen and Brian Chen, a team of brothers from University High School and Cheat Lake Middle School, earned First Place Overall Honors at the 2008 West Virginia West Point Bridge Design Contest, which culminated April 26, 2008, at Marshall University.

2008 West Virginia West Point Bridge Design Final Standing:

- **Overall Winners:** 1st Place, Team Bongo, Peter Chen and Brian Chen, University High School and Cheat Lake Middle School; 2nd Place, Team Snizallfrits, Paige Haught and Josh Metz, Ritchie County Middle School; 3rd Place, All Star BBs, Richard Six and Josh Sandridge, Brook High School
- **High School Winners:** 1st Place, Team Bongo; 2nd Place, All Star BBs; 3rd Place, It's Nice, Colton McCollough and Jamie Tuckwiller, Greenbrier East High School
- **Middle School Winners:** 1st Place, Team Snizallfrits; 2nd Place, BridgeBusters12, Cody Goff and Reno Jackson, Ritchie County Middle School; 3rd Place, SuperDuperz, Cody Hall and Joshua James, Ritchie County Middle School
- **The Increasably Cool Spirit Award:** Sandra Stafford, Team Hashi, Pikeview Middle School
- **Amazing Engineering Race Winners:** Team Theta, Leif Sayvetz, Greenbrier East High; Haley Auguston, Pikeview High School; Joshua James, Ritchie County Middle School; Garrett Shaffer, St. Francis de Sales Middle School; and Josh Sandridge, Brooke High School.

Middle and high school students interested in the field of engineering may take advantage of

a pre-K-12 outreach program and statewide competition made possible by the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute (RTI), the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) West Virginia Younger Member Forum and the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

The West Virginia Statewide ASCE West Point Bridge Design Competition and Educational Outreach Program is a high-energy, mentoring and training program that provides middle and high school students with a realistic, hands-on, engaging introduction to engineering, bridges and transportation design concepts.

“This is an exceptional program for West Virginia’s youth,” U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall (D-W.Va.) said. “This group effort will help our students get a look at the challenges that today’s engineering provides and give them an inside look at how demanding and rewarding an engineering program can be.”

Engineering students from several universities in West Virginia and young engineering professionals will visit participating schools to serve as mentors and coaches beginning January

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2005. They will assist teams in designing “virtual” bridges while considering factors such as cost, terrain, time constraints and environmental impact.

The “virtual” bridges are designed with free software, which may be downloaded in January 2005. Major outreach activities, including classroom visits and mentoring, will culminate during National Engineering Week in February 2005. The first round of qualifying competition will end in March 2005 and the top West Virginia teams will be contacted to compete in the statewide competition in April 2005.

Marshall University President Stephen J. Kopp, Ph. D., spoke to students during the luncheon.

Primary sponsors of the West Virginia competition include the Nick J. Rahall, II Appalachian Transportation Institute, American Society of Civil Engineers Younger Member Forum, West Virginia Department of Transportation and West Virginia Department of Education.

During the luncheon, 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Awards were given to Katrina Andrews, a teacher from Ritchie County; Jimmy Wriston, P.E., from the WVDOT; and Jerry Elkins, II, P.E., 2008 Coordinator, ASCE.

“Building Jobs through Transportation”

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