PISCATAWAY

Area students place at engineering competition

A team of students from Valley Middle School in Oak-land took first place honors at the New Jersey Regional National Engineers Week Future City competition held Jan. 15 at Rutgers University.

The competition required students in grades 6 through 8 to build three-dimensional, tabletop models of a city of the future.

Models, which illustrated the students' computer-generated designs, were constructed of recycled materials. Participants, who could spend no more than $100, were required to stick to this year's theme of "health care in the future." Students then had to present and defend their designs to a panel of judges.

The winners: Team "Eleebana Wahan," students Sidney Anderson, Benjamin Claus and Jeeran Jeyabalan, their teacher, Judith Vihonski and their volunteer engineer mentor, Robert Akowitz, will travel to Washington, D.C., next month to compete in the finals.

Other winners include the William R. Satz Middle School in Holmdel, second place; Heritage Middle School in Livingston, third place; and St. Paul Interparochial School in Ramsey, fourth place.

The 19th annual Future City Competition is sponsored in part by the National Engineers Week Foundation, a consortium of professional and technical societies.

More than 33,000 students are participating in this year's competitions.

For information on participating in next year's competition, e-mail sblubarsky@gmail.com.

To submit news about your school send an e-mail to union@starledger.com.