



Michigan's Future City Champs Take Second Place at Finals

The team wins \$5,000 and a special award

Release Date: March 23, 2022

SOUTHFIELD – A city of the future, Detroit-FC (Detroit Future City), engineered by students from St. John Lutheran School in Rochester won second place today at the 2022 Future City Finals. 41 teams from around the world participated in the special online celebration. This year's theme challenged students to design a waste-free city that uses the principles of a circular economy.

In addition to winning second place, the St. John team also won the Best Use of Renewable Energy Award sponsored by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers and a prize of \$5,000 for their school's STEM program sponsored by Shell USA, Inc.

St. John won the Michigan Regional Future City competition on January 25 beating 14 other teams at the online event. St. John has won the regional competition, organized by The Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD), the past five years in a row.

St. John's city, called Detroit-FC, was the creation of Caleb Raikes, Ava Thomas and Joshua Wallace and a team of other St. John's students, guided by educators Dr. Linda Gerhardt and Tim Grothaus and mentors Tim and Michelle Koss.

Future City, a program of DiscoverE, is a project-based learning experience where students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades imagine, research, design, and build cities of the future. The project transforms students' understanding of engineering and strengthens their teamwork, problem-solving and project management skills.

The competition engages more than 45,000 middle school students each year throughout the United States and abroad. Students participate as teams, guided by an educator and a volunteer STEM mentor. Teams spend approximately four months creating cities that could exist at least 100 years in the future. Each city must incorporate a solution to a design challenge that changes each year. Next year's challenge will focus on climate change.

Presenting sponsors of the Michigan Regional Future City Competition are the DTE Foundation and the Ford Motor Company Fund.

For information on how you can become a part of Future City, visit www.esd.org/programs/futurecity, or contact Allison Marrs, ESD Future City program manager, at amarrs@esd.org or 248-353-0735, ext. 121.

About ESD

Founded in 1895, The Engineering Society of Detroit is a multi-disciplinary society uniting engineering, scientific and allied professions to enhance professional development and foster excitement about math and science to produce our next generation of leaders. Serving this generation of engineers and fostering the next. For more information, visit www.esd.org.

About DiscoverE

Future City is a program of DiscoverE. DiscoverE works to provide every student with a shared STEM experience and the resources, programs, and connections to improve the understanding of engineering through a united voice and a global distribution network.