

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

***STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION***

**For Immediate Release**

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**BELMONT STUDENTS WIN TOP HONORS IN NATIONAL COMPETITION**  
***THREE TEAMS COMPETE IN Balsa WOOD BRIDGE BUILDING CONTEST***

Two teams of Belmont High School students have captured the top prizes for best bridge design in a national competition that promotes civil engineering and transportation careers. A third Belmont, New Hampshire team took third place in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade division.

All of the students are participants in TRAC (Transportation and Civil Engineering), a hands-on program sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO). The final competition was held this week at the AASHTO spring meeting in Branson, Missouri. The students designed three types of bridges for the competition; suspension bridges, floating bridges and truss drawbridges. They were judged not only on the strength and design of their bridge models, but also on the quality of their presentation.

The Belmont High 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade team of Emily Chase, Mark Brown and Kurtis Bartlett took first place in their division for their construction of a balsa wood model suspension bridge. The winning team was awarded \$1,500 in savings bonds. Also capturing a first place award was the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade team of Courtney Clary, Nicholas Riendeau and Sean McCauley for their design and construction of a floating bridge. This team also shares \$1,500 in savings bonds. Taking a third place (\$600 in savings bonds) in the design and construction of a drawbridge was the Belmont Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade team of Hannah Drew, Kayli Ennis and Bailey Beltramo.

Helping the Belmont students prepare for both the national and state competitions were Belmont High teacher Randy Wormald, Belmont Middle School teachers Laura Dwyer and Joe Wernig, and Michelle Marshall, an Engineer with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation.

- XX -

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