

Student Mentoring Program Fact Sheet

School Year 2009-2010

Goal: *Now in its 16th year, the program is designed to stimulate interest and excitement in engineering, architecture, and related fields among local area students. This is accomplished by allowing students to learn through a professional work environment, rather than an academic one. It gives the students the opportunity to participate in a “real-world” project facilitated by professionals who are employed in the field. The process is designed to provide the students with experience in how professionals form teams, define the scope of a problem; work through, and finally present their solutions on architectural, engineering, and science related projects utilizing persons with different talents.*

Mentors: Practicing professionals in architecture, engineering, and science fields from corporate, academia, and government agencies who work with the school teachers. These individuals and teachers may volunteer at least 1 hour per week for about 30 weeks.

T.E.A.M.S: Consisting of **T**eachers, **E**ngineers, and/or **A**rchitects, **M**entoring pre-college **S**tudents. Generally there are about 10 students, a teacher(s) from a sponsoring school, and two mentors from professional firms, who work together allowing the students to experience how real world professionals sell their solutions on architectural or engineering projects. The team activities may be part of the school curriculum or extracurricular.

Projects: Project topics are selected by students. Topics must be relevant projects that capture the interest of the team members; local or national, engineering, architectural, and or science related. Many projects have lead to Real World realization. Check out our web site.
http://www.pki.nebraska.edu/studentinfo/simp/real_world.php

Organization: The program is an initiative of the Omaha Post of the Society of American Military Engineers, SAME, and is housed at The Peter Kiewit Institute, PKI, on the UNO Campus.

Awards: **Two Divisions:**
High School Division & Middle/Jr High School Division

Level of Achievement Awards

There are a total of six merit categories:

- Applied Sciences
- Innovation
- Research
- Sustainability
- Team Work
- Technology

All teams are graded in each category on their level of achievement and may be awarded either a Gold or Silver achievement medallion to mount on their team plaque (maximum total of 6 medallions per team)

Awards of Distinction

A Gold level of achievement is worth 2 points and a Silver level is worth 1 point. The highest five point winners will each receive an Award of Distinction and \$250. (The overall division winners will not be eligible for these awards but will be awarded the Post President’s award.)

Post President’s Award

The Post President’s award of \$1,000 will be given to the overall division winners

Scholarships:

A \$1,000 scholarship will be presented to the High School winning the Post Present’s Award. Additional scholarships will be awarded to individual seniors participating in the program, who meet specific requirements.

Additional

Information: Please check out our web site: <http://www.pki.nebraska.edu/simp>