

4th Annual Ergonomics Design Competition for Student Teams Is Announced

Auburn Engineers, Inc. has announced that they are hosting the 4th Annual Ergonomics Design Competition for Student Teams. Registration this year opens on September 6th. Symbolically, the competition begins each year on Labor Day as homage to America's work force and the Ergonomist's goal of bettering the work environment. The competition is online and consists of a preliminary problem and a final design problem. The First Place team receives the coveted eTools Prize that includes the traveling award statue to display for the year, a permanent plaque for their school, as well as individual award certificates and a cash prize of **\$300** to each team member. Second Place and Honorable mention also receive school plaques, certificates, and cash prizes.

The preliminary competition is held during September and October, and the competition culminates in early November with a 48-hour project for the finalist teams. Upon registration teams are trained in **eTools**, the world-class ergonomics job analysis software developed by Auburn Engineers, Inc. Students then use **eTools**, as well as knowledge gained through academic training and applied experience to evaluate and create a solution to the ergonomic dilemmas posed in the competition. This past year, students re-designed a backpack during the preliminary competition, then a packaging tape dispenser for the final competition. During the Preliminary Round Competition, "lightning round" projects provide opportunities for the teams to earn extra credit by responding to short and entertaining questions regarding ergonomics. The Lightning Round Projects are scored on quality and speed of their answers. And are typically thought provoking questions such as challenging the teams to describe ergonomics to their Grandparents.

Registration will be open from **September 6- September 30, 2010**. Teams of 3-5 persons can be made up of any combination of full time graduate or undergraduate students from any accredited college or university, and must be sponsored by a faculty advisor. Schools and advisors are not limited on the number of teams they may have. More information can be found at the website: www.ergonomicsdesign.org or by contacting Auburn Engineers, Inc. at information@ergonomicsdesign.org. There is a \$50/team registration fee.

Auburn Engineers has over 20 years of experience with clients from small, local business to large multi-national enterprises. Their eTools software is used globally and is designed by leading ergonomists for high quality, low cost ergonomics job analysis in manufacturing (eTools Shop), in the office (eTools Office), and for design (eTools Design). Fifteen different teams from universities spanning America have received awards for first, second and honorable mention in this preeminent ergonomics competition in its first 3 years.