May 8, 2012

Iowa Science Olympiad
Attn Susan Noreuil
COE College
Cedar Rapids IA

Dear Iowa Science Olympiad,

**STEM Initiative of Iowa, Scale-up Project**

Schneider Electric has built a valuable collaboration with COE College in Cedar Rapids Iowa over the last several years. The relationship includes engineers from Schneider Electric collaborating with COE students and staff on industry science and engineering topics. The relationships we have formed have encouraged Schneider Electric engineers to volunteer for STEM activities organized through COE like the Science Olympiad.

As engineers from Schneider who have volunteered with the Iowa Science Olympiad, we have witnessed the benefits that programs like this will have for our future in engineering and high tech fields. For example, in the robotics competitions, the students must work as a team to design a robot to solve a set of problems, but also must follow specifications that limit possible solutions. This is very much like engineering in industry.

A more detailed example from the robotics competition was one team using an Andriod smart phone to control their robot motion instead of standard remote controls. This is impressive from a high school team, considering industry is clamoring for this type of personal device “App” development in many markets.

Besides robotics, the Science Olympiad has many other events that promote science and make it fun to excel at academics.

Sincerely,

Chad Mittelstadt, Sr. Staff Engineer

Jon Oswood, Contact Manufacturing Specialist