



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Jason Crowell
27th Senate District

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 323
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101

For Immediate Release:
November 25, 2008

Contact: Bev Schuelen
(573) 751-2459

Senator Jason Crowell Contributes to MoDOT's Annual Bridge Building Competition *Sen. Crowell Sponsors Prize for Second Year Encouraging Schools to Participate*

JEFFERSON CITY– Sen. Jason Crowell (R-Cape Girardeau), recently helped support Missouri students interested in civil engineering by sponsoring a prize as a part of the Missouri Department of Transportation Southeast District's fifth annual bridge building competition. This is the second year in a row that Sen. Crowell has chosen to sponsor the prize.

"I think this competition is a valuable source of encouragement for students in the area interested in engineering," said Sen. Crowell. "The ingenuity and creativity of these competitors is very impressive, and I am glad to be able to contribute to the event."

More than 225 bridges were tested at this year's competition. Each participant received a bridge building kit containing 20 pieces of balsa wood, a spool of thread, and a bottle of glue. These materials are used to try to create the lightest bridge that can carry the greatest load. This was tested by weighing the bridges, and then loading them with water until they broke or deflected one inch. Individual winners can receive civil engineering scholarships to one of five universities (Southeast Missouri State University, University of Missouri-Rolla, University of Missouri-Columbia, Arkansas State University, and Southern Illinois University).

Sen. Crowell sponsored a prize for the schools that did the best overall in the competition. Any school with three or more entries was eligible for the prize. Ste. Genevieve High School's teacher Clayton Cox accepted a trophy and \$500 check for first place; Chaffee High School's teacher Jaron McMurry accepted a \$300 check for placing second; and Oak Ridge High School's teacher Mark Gihring accepted a \$200 check for coming in third.

"The schools that chose to participate in this competition are providing their students with an important experience," said Sen. Crowell. "Congratulations to all the student and teachers who were winners this year."

-END-

