



## DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Boot Camp Student Wins SDSM&T Engineering Contest**

(Custer) - Students from the Patrick Henry Brady Boot Camp won top honors, including first place, in the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) National Engineering Week Bridge Design contest February 16th.

Boot Camp student Kyle Hlavac was awarded first place in the contest. Boot Camp students David (last name withheld) and Mathew Dickerson finished fifth and sixth respectively.

There were 159 entries in the SDSM&T contest, which is open to students from South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Nebraska. First prize is \$25 cash and a \$100 scholarship to SDSM&T upon enrollment.

Students were given a piece of cardboard measuring 9 x 12 inches and could only use staples and paper slots to construct a bridge that needed to span 8 inches. The bridge was then tested for durability.

Custer Youth Corrections Center science teacher Chris Johnson turned the contest into a Building Dynamics Lesson for the Boot Camp students.

"We studied bridge design, including watching a film about bridge building," said Johnson. "Then we built bridges from 1/4" strips of 1/8" plywood and glue, which we tested during class and finally completed the lesson with the SDSM&T contest."

The Brady Boot Camp is located on the main campus of the Custer Youth Corrections Center (CYCC). Other programs for boys on the campus include Living Center A & B. The girls programs, EXCEL and QUEST, are located in Custer State Park on the site of the former Youth Forestry Camp.

**Note: The students and their parents have authorized the publication of the student's names for purposes of this release and stories you wish to publish or broadcast. The student who finished fifth did not wish to have his last name released.**