CCSU takes top honors at regional event

CCSU students Matthew Dablain, Jeff Goric, Brian Higgins, and Maria Ruscitti earned CCSU its third TECA-East Technology Challenge title in five years. The team placed first in a field of twelve, overcoming challenges from teams from Clemson, California University of Pennsylvania, and North Carolina State University. CCSU also won honors in three other events at the Virginia Beach conference, including first place in the Automated Systems event.

The Technology Challenge is the marquee event at TECA East, a yearly gathering of more than 200 college students from east-coast universities from SUNY-Oswego in upstate New York to Georgia Southern University. The 2006 conference was held on February 16-18.

Since CCSU’s last championship in 2003, teams from the College of New Jersey have stood in the way of a CCSU victory. In fact, this friendly rivalry extends back to at least 1990, when the New Jersey team edged out CCSU at a competition in Salt Lake City. But
this year, after besting TCNJ in the first round of the single-elimination event, CCSU fended off the remaining competition to re-take the title.

Of the twenty-three CCSU students who participated, twenty are technology education majors, and ten were making at least their second trip to an out-of-state TECA event. For the second year, the Central team was joined on the bus trip by seven students from Fitchburg (Massachusetts) State College. Sophomore Matthew Kiewlen, treasurer of Central’s TECA chapter, handled most of the logistics for the trip.

Three other CCSU teams won TECA-East awards this year:

- **The Automated Systems team took first place** at the Virginia Beach conference. Last year’s *Automated* team—Michael Creem, team captain Matthew Dablain, Craig Rogers, and Paul Nowakowski, had a close call with victory in 2005, and were joined this year by first-year student Ryan Semeraro. The result was probably the clearest victory for Central in years. The winning apparatus and design paperwork is on display in Copernicus 101.
In a much tighter competition, **Central took third place in the Communications competition.** Although this has traditionally been one of CCSU’s strongest events, it usually features the best competition. This year was no different. Team captain Maria Ruscitti, a veteran of several champion Communications teams, was joined by Matthew Kiewlen, Jill Mullady, Carey Poetzsch, and Michael Wilkosz. North Carolina A&T won first place.

Also earning a third-place trophy was the Instructional Module team. Perennial winners Millersville University again took top honors, but Central students Patrick Folsom, John McCandless, and Christopher Mele continued CCSU’s rising prominence in this event.

Other participating students were CCSU-TECA officers Daniel Kolatsky and Tom Richards, each making his sixth out-of-state TECA trip, and first-timers Jonathan Arpaia, Laura Baker, Timothy Bouffard, Steven Fix, Scott O’Brien, and David Thompson. Central faculty members James DeLaura, Patrick Foster, and Jerry Friedman also attended, as did Fitchburg faculty members James Alicata and Wayne Whitfield.