



MATH AND SCIENCE INITIATIVE TAKES OFF LIKE A “COMET”

TOMS RIVER – On Tuesday, February 26, 2008, the **Ocean County Math and Science Initiative** announced the results of the “Name the Initiative Contest” that was held at the Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science (MATES) in Manahawkin. The Initiative is a partnership that unites Ocean County College (OCC), the Ocean County school districts, the Naval Air Engineering Station in Lakehurst, and area business and industry in a focused effort to promote the study of mathematics and science.

“Math and Science will be vital for success in the technological, highly competitive, global economy of the future. Unfortunately, few U.S. students are excited by math and science, and the number of U.S. students choosing to pursue careers in these disciplines continues to decline. We need to reverse this trend for our economy to be competitive and for the economic success of our students,” explained Dr. Bill Eventoff, President of ESTM Associates, Inc. and Advisory Board Chair of the Math and Science Initiative.

Derek Jorgensen, a junior at MATES submitted the winning entry: **COMETS** (Career-Oriented Math, Engineering, Technology, and Science). Jorgensen says that his winning idea came to him rather easily when he started scrambling the key words science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. At MATES, he is focusing his studies on science and math, and plans to pursue a career in the United States Air Force upon graduation.

Jorgensen was recognized for his creativity by Dr. Eventoff and Dr. Frank Wetta, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Ocean County College, during the February 26 meeting of

Ocean County school superintendents at Georgian Court University, Lakewood. Jorgensen's first place prize, a Dell laptop computer, was donated by Ocean County College.



“ ‘COMETS’ is a great name,” said Dr. Eventoff. “It’s exciting and dynamic and we hope it will capture the imagination and interest of our students.”

According to Dr. Eventoff, the Math and Science Initiative (now COMETS) began in summer 2007 at Ocean County College. COMETS’ mission is to engage parents, students, and teachers through advocacy and educational programs, 1) to recognize that mathematics and science are vital in the global economy, 2) to enhance mathematics and science education, and

3) to increase the number of students who choose to pursue these disciplines in preparation for the technologically challenging career paths of the future.

For information on COMETS, visit www.ocean.edu/comets.htm, or contact Dr. Bill Eventoff at beventoff@estm.biz or 732.341.2951.