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## Have Some Serious Fun

**W**ant to have a really good time with your AICHE membership? Have we got an opportunity for you!

For many members — from students to emeritus members — some of the best fun to be had in AICHE involves the annual Chem-E-Car Competition series. Like nearly all the best and most important AICHE activities, the success of the competition depends on the work of member volunteers.

Beginning in March, engineers across the U.S. can join the fun and help with this interesting and important work.

AICHE's spring regional student conferences take place at nine locations each year. The dates and sites of the 2010 conferences are listed at [www.aiche.org/Students/Conferences/index.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/Students/Conferences/index.aspx). These regional gatherings allow undergraduates to meet young chemical engineers from neighboring schools, mingle with professionals, present scholarly work in competition, and enjoy the fun and rewards of active AICHE participation.

Chem-E-Car ([www.aiche.org/Students/Conferences/chemecar.aspx](http://www.aiche.org/Students/Conferences/chemecar.aspx)) has become a high-profile part of that fun for the 100 schools that participate — as well as for the dozens of chemical engineers and other professionals who are needed to make the regional competitions safe and successful through their crucial roles as safety inspectors and reviewers.

Participating teams are required to adhere to a strict regimen of safety training and compliance standards. Prior to each competition, students receive mandatory training in safe practices, sponsored by AICHE and the Safety and Chemical Engineering Education (SACHE) program. They are also required to submit an engineering package containing job safety analysis (JSA) forms and other documentation. The documents are critiqued by volunteers under the guidance of AICHE's Chem-E-Car subcommittee and its national safety coordinator, Tara Henriksen. Onsite at the regional conferences, vehicle inspections are conducted and poster presentations are reviewed by volunteers who interview students about their work and ensure that they comprehend and comply with the safe design and performance standards.

The engineering documentation packages are reviewed a month before each competition, beginning in late February and continuing into April. Henriksen is recruiting interested and qualified people in the vicinity of each regional conference site to join the regional safety review teams.

Check out the roster of regional conference sites, and contact Henriksen if you would like to volunteer to review engineering documentation packages (remotely) or if you can participate as an onsite reviewer.

If you are interested in meeting colleagues from other organizations in your region, have a desire to mentor young engineers and share your safety expertise, or simply want to become more involved in Institute activities, contact Henriksen at [vbritelite@hotmail.com](mailto:vbritelite@hotmail.com) to volunteer as a Chem-E-Car Safety Inspector.

Gordon Ellis, Assistant Editor

