

## Contraption Challenge

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Lincoln 6th grade engineers held their 2nd Contraption Convention on March 11, 2010 in the Lincoln gym. The 24 sixth graders met twice a week after school for eight weeks to learn more about engineering and other science, technology, and math careers. During the Contraption Challenge the students studied industrial engineering using an EIE kit from Grant Wood AEA and built Rube Goldberg type contraptions to demonstrate their problem solving skills. For the convention, each group of students had to present their contraption, design a presentation board, and create a commercial for their invention. The students also toured Indian Hills Community College and the University of Iowa to increase awareness of STEM related careers. Funding for this after-school program was provided by the Corridor STEM Initiative, an effort by the state of Iowa in conjunction with large businesses to increase the number of students in Iowa pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The day was a lot of FUN for everyone!