

# **MSU joins Clean Snowmobile Challenge**

## **Team Prepares for Competition over Spring Break**

Fourteen teams representing universities from the length of North America's Snow Belt have registered for the Society of Automotive Engineers' Clean Snowmobile Challenge, coming in March to Michigan Technological University.

A team of fourteen students and advisor, Professor Bruce Jones, from Minnesota State University, Mankato will be among those competing March 19-24 at MTU's Keweenaw Research Center, known for its vehicle test grounds and the Midwest's finest winter driving track. This will be Michigan Tech's first year hosting the event, which is being organized by the Keweenaw Research Center and MTU's mechanical engineering department.

The Clean Snowmobile Challenge is the SAE's newest collegiate design competition. Teams of engineering students from participating schools take a perfectly good stock snowmobile and then reengineer it to reduce emissions and noise while maintaining or improving performance.

The teams will compete in a series of events, including an endurance trek from the Keweenaw Research Center to Copper Harbor. Teams will also be judged on emissions, noise, acceleration, braking, handling and fuel economy.

On Saturday, March 22, the center's 500-acre test track will be opened to spectators for the handling event. More than 1,000 contestants, volunteers and support personnel are expected to participate in the Clean Snowmobile Challenge this winter, in addition to visitors coming to view the competition.

Photos and results of the Challenge will be up on the Web at: [www.sae.org/students/snow.htm](http://www.sae.org/students/snow.htm)