



HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY



## Hofstra-NYMEX Commodities Challenge for High Schools

As the digital revolution is pervading every part of the global financial markets, Hofstra-NYMEX Commodities Challenge for High Schools is an innovative educational opportunity for high school students to learn the past, present as well as the future of commodities markets, especially trading in the New York Mercantile Exchange. Participating high school students will have the opportunity to learn from Hofstra's Finance professors and the professionals of the NYMEX functioning of the commodities markets, their impact on the economy and investment decisions. Students will have a chance to experience the cutting edge digital realities of the commodities markets trading at the Martin B. Greenberg Trading Room at Hofstra. NYMEX staff and Hofstra professors will discuss the economics of trading in financial markets and introduce the students to market terminology, contracts, trading and investments.

### Day 1: Friday, January 4th 2008

Martin B. Greenberg Trading Room, CV Starr Hall (South Campus), Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY  
10:30am – 3:30pm (lunch and refreshments to be served)

- Hofstra Finance Faculty and NYMEX staff will explain the commodities market and its workings
  - Price discovery, impact of commodities markets on the overall economy
- Students will learn about the new electronic trading terminal trading systems
  - Impact of futures trading on investments and diversification
- The culmination of Day 1 will be a digital trading experience, where students will be able to utilize the resources of the Martin B. Greenberg Trading Room at Hofstra in a simulated trading competition, using the same equipment and information as NYMEX professionals.

### Day 2: Friday, January 11th 2008

Martin B. Greenberg Trading Room, CV Starr Hall (South Campus), Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY  
10:30am – 3:30pm (lunch and refreshments to be served)

- Students will learn about the traditional "outcry" trading system used on the NYMEX floor
  - Development of a financial market in response to changing risks in an economy
- The culmination of Day 2 will be an "outcry" simulation again held at Hofstra's academic trading room, where students will experience the personal trading interaction that has been the long history of commodities trading in the NYMEX facility

Participating high school students and their teachers will be responsible for their own transportation to and from Hofstra University.

The winners of the simulated trading competitions over two days will be awarded prizes by Hofstra and NYMEX as well as a free trip for their class to the New York Mercantile Exchange in Manhattan, where they will be treated to lunch and a tour of the active NYMEX trading floor.

### Organizers of the Hofstra-NYMEX Commodities Challenge for High Schools

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**M**artin B. Greenberg Trading Room gives Hofstra faculty and students the ability to access and analyze a vast array of financial & economic data, apply analytical methods, conduct interactive trading simulations, and develop contemporary financial models.



**T**his state of the art facility is the only university academic trading room in the country with 34 Bloomberg Professional terminals. At each Bloomberg terminal, faculty and students have access to the same market data, analysis and news available to professionals in various financial institutions. In addition, resources of the facility include industry standard databases and analytical applications like Datastream, CRSP, Research Insight, FinCAD, Matlab and Splus.



**H**ofstra students took the top four places and six of the top 10 spots at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) simulated 'open outcry' trading competition on April 27, 2007 at the exchange's trading floor. 30 Students from various universities assumed the role of a pit trader, buying and selling crude oil futures contracts.