

Montana Society of Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers



Founded 1887

MATHCOUNTS: A Competition Where Everyone Wins!

Bill Buxton, PE, President

President's Message

I am embarrassed to admit that after three years of being an officer of the Montana Society of Engineers I have never attended the MATHCOUNTS State Competition in Bozeman. I always had a reason not to go. Sure the reasons were always legitimate; too busy at work, too busy at home, etc. Well, this year I told myself that regardless of how busy I am, I was going to make it to this year's competition. So I jumped in the car, braved the blizzard, and headed south to Bozeman.

For those of you who do not know, MATHCOUNTS is a national math coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement in every U.S. state and territory. It is estimated that over 500,000 students participate in MATHCOUNTS and the competition includes over 17,000 volunteers (teachers, engineers, etc.) nationwide.

I must say that being involved in MATHCOUNTS was a real eye opener for me. First, I did not realize how big this competition really was in Montana. During the regional competition 462 kids from 72 schools competed. This number was narrowed down to 85 kids from 24 schools for the state competition.

I also never realized how many volunteers it took for this competition to run smoothly. This year we had about 20 volunteers at the competition including 13

people scoring the exams, 3 people entering the exam scores into the computer, and about 3 people administering the exam itself. And, I can't forget Dan Munson, who was the chairman of the state competition, and the MSE staff (Connie, Gail, and Karen) for all of their support and dedication. Let's also not forget about the coaches from each school that volunteered to not only work with the kids at school, but also during the regional and state competitions.

By the end of the day I was both exhausted and inspired. The experience was very rewarding and for a great cause. More importantly, however, I was very impressed with the intelligence, energy, and maturity of the kids involved. I definitely feel that in this competition everyone comes away as better person. Next year, instead of using work as an excuse not to come I am sure I will be using MATHCOUNTS as an excuse to get out of work.

So, in the spirit of competition I would like to issue a challenge: I challenge each of you to get involved. Your involvement can be at the local or state level. I guarantee that you will come away from this experience with the same feeling that I have. And, if you think you are pretty smart and have some humility, I challenge you to come to next year's competition and compete against some of these kids. We'll find out how smart you really are!

March, 2003

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Inside This Issue

<i>2003 State Montana MathCOUNTS Update</i>	2
<i>2002-2003 MathCOUNTS Financial Supporters</i>	3
<i>Career Fairs—Your Shortcut to Job Interviews</i>	3
<i>Legislative Update</i>	4
<i>MSU Engineering Outreach Program</i>	5
<i>WELCOME to Our New NSPE—MSE Member</i>	5
<i>Revised NSPE Code of Ethics</i>	5
<i>The Warning Signs of Career Disaster</i>	6
<i>New SF 330 to Replace SF 254/255 A/E Qualification Forms</i>	6
<i>Two Inducted into the Professional Engineers Hall of Fame</i>	7
<i>2002-2003 State Officers</i>	8

2003 Montana State MATHCOUNTS

Dan Munson, PE, State Coordinator

Teams of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student "Mathletes" from Montana junior high schools braved the snowstorm and traveled to Bozeman to compete in the State MATHCOUNTS contest on Friday, March 7th. A total of 24 middle schools across the state comprised of 85 students participated. The top four individual Mathletes, and the coach of the winning team, won an all-expense paid trip to the MATHCOUNTS National Competition.

Ross Rowsey and Antony Speranza from Helena's CR Anderson Middle School, Corbin Johnson from Missoula's Washington Middle School, and Andrew Wiens from Billings Will James Junior High School won the top honors at the State Competition this year. These four boys, along with the CR Anderson Middle School Math teacher Chuck Bozdog, will represent Montana as our official state team at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Chicago.

MATHCOUNTS is a combination math coaching and competition program. Students are tested on such topics as probability, statistics, linear algebra, and polynomials. The competition consists of written tests and a fast-paced oral match.

The first level of the competition began in January and early February when the student Mathletes competed within their school to become a member of the "school team". From there, 462 students from 72 middle schools competed at the regional level in February. Winners at the regional level received prizes and advanced to the State competition. The winners of this State Competition will advance to Chicago on May 9th to represent Montana in the National MATHCOUNTS Competition and compete for individual and team national titles against other top middle school math students representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and schools from the Department of Defense and State Department.

Nationally since September, over 500,000 Mathletes have been using materials provided by the MATHCOUNTS Foundation to sharpen their math skills, with the help of their "coaches."

More than six million students have participated in the MATHCOUNTS program since its inception in 1983. Over 17,000 MATHCOUNTS volunteers from the business and education communities annually organize and conduct the program in communities nationwide.

The National Society of Professional Engineers on a national level organizes the MATHCOUNTS program. Locally, the Montana Society of Engineers organizes MATHCOUNTS, with local volunteer effort being provided by area engineers, students, and professionals. We had a great contingent of fellow engineers volunteering their time to make the program run smoothly. We are always looking for more help, so if you want to help next year's competition, contact Dan Munson at dan.munson@northwestern.com for more information.

A special thanks needs to be extended to each of the Chapter Coordinators:

Billings Chapter & State Coordinator

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Jerry Stephens, Coordinator

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Butte Chapter

Brian Sullivan, Coordinator

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Each of the Chapter Coordinators depend on a number of local volunteers in order to make each of the Chapter Competitions happen. Thank you for taking the time to make this program work!

The winners of this State Competition will advance to Chicago on May 9th to represent Montana in the National MATHCOUNTS Competition and compete for individual and team national titles against other top middle school math students representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories and schools from the Department of Defense and State Department.

2002-03 MATHCOUNTS Supporters

Listed below are the 2002-03 financial sponsors of the MATHCOUNTS program. Without their support, the program would not exist.

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UniField Engineering
Van Dyken Engineering
WGM-Engineering Surveying Consultants
Yellowstone Electric Company

THANK YOU!
**You make MATHCOUNTS
possible.**

Career Fairs — Your Shortcut to Job Interviews

In many cities and local communities, spring is career fair season. While these events often prove disappointing, job seekers who understand how “work” career fairs use these events as powerful networking sessions leading to interviews with future employers. If you are considering attending a job fair soon, you’ll get more out of the event by following these three rules.

Rule #1: Plan ahead: Know ahead of time which companies will attend the event. Decide which employers you are interested in contacting. Visit their websites to read their open job positions. For employers of primary interest, do extra research to acquaint yourself with them. The basics are enough: local, national or global; headquarters, branch or subsidiary; industry lifecycle (growing or declining) and how many employees locally. If you’ve done your homework, you’ll feel much more confident during the event to speak intelligently with company reps. Take an employer list with you to make sure you don’t miss any important connections.

Rule #2: Prepare your 30-second presentation: Since you know which employers you’re interested in and their job openings, prepare to communicate your qualifications in a 30-second presentation, or “elevator speech.” It shouldn’t sound canned or contrived, but it should include a few selling points that catch the rep’s attention for a few minutes.

A 30-second presentation is not difficult to develop. Here’s what I advise my clients. Reduce your resume to selling points that fit on a 3X5 card. Use that information to answer the all-important question—“why should I be interested in considering you a candidate for a position with my company?” Now, role-play your speech with a friend, or by yourself while driving, or in front of a mirror until your “speech” sounds and feels natural.

Your objective is to secure an after-event interview time before you leave the booth. Don’t be afraid to ask for the interview. Whether you’ve secured an interview or not, don’t leave the booth without speaking with someone and picking up their business card. After the event, use the business cards to re-establish contact and suggest an interview where appropriate. This is no time to be shy. Follow-up contact will put you on top of the candidate pile.

Rule #3: Avoid the crowd: Arrive early or late, but avoid the noon-to-4:00 crowd. If possible, come early before reps are bored, tired and hungry. Another reason to avoid peak times: crowds can be intimidating. It’s much easier to talk yourself out of approaching important employer contacts when other job seekers surround them.

Last word—make sure your resume is in top-notch condition. Does it grab the reader’s attention? Does it communicate your best accomplishments? Does it sell you as a top candidate? Have several persons proof read it. Most employers will want to store your resume in a computerized database. Since you’ll be distributing your resume in hard copy, make sure it is in scan-able form. No fancy fonts, graphics or elaborate bullets.

It’s a fact that the best jobs go to those with the best job-search skills. Knowing how to make the most out of career fairs is a valuable skill that can cut weeks, event months off your job search. What does that equate in potential earnings for you?

Deborah Walker, CCMC
888-828-0514

**Without the 2002-03
MATHCOUNTS financial
supports, the program
would not exist.**

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Legislative Update

Tom Heinecke, PE, Immediate Past-President

With several hundred bills dead at transmittal, the Legislature now concentrates on big picture issues such as balancing the budget and tax reform, as well as hearing bills in committee that made it through their house of origin.

SB 45, Increase limits for QBS, passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. No committee assignment of hearing date as of yet. The House has twice as many bills as the Senate and will not likely take this bill up until after transmittal date.

SB 83, Design Build DOT pilot bill. This bill has also passed the Senate and again, we don't expect anything to happen in the House until after transmittal.

HB 147. This bill would have opened a loop hole in the QBS and allow consideration of fees in the selection of a design professional services. It has been tabled in committee. It is likely to stay there.

HB 448, Prompt Payment. This is the bill that the subcontractors have introduced for several sessions, unsuccessfully. This time around they were able to get the general contractors on board. ACEC/MT worked with the

HB 98	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Business and Labor
HB 115	(S) 2nd Reading Concurred on Voice Vote
HB 147	(H) Tabled in Committee—(H) Local Government
HB 174	(S) Referred to Committee—(S) Business and Labor
HB 189	(H) Tabled in Committee—(H) Transportation
HB 290	(H) Tabled in Committee—(H) Local Government
HB 298	(H) Hearing- (H) Local Government
HB 301	(H) Tabled in Committee—(H) Transportation
HB 303	(H) Transmitted to Senate
HB 324	(H) Tabled in Committee—(H) Local Government
HB 335	(H) Hearing- (H) Local Government
HB 336	(H) Tabled in Committee—(H) Transportation
HB 345	(H) Tabled in Committee— (H) Taxation
HB 370	(H) Hearing- (H) Natural Resources
HB 403	(S) Referred to Committee—(S) Business and Labor
HB 405	(H) Hearing- (H) Natural Resources
HB 438	(H) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended-- (H) Business and Labor
HB 442	(H) Hearing- (H) Local Government
HB 473	(H) Tabled in Committee-- (H) Business and Labor
HB 482	(H) Committee Report--Bill Passed— (H) Business and Labor
HB 493	(H) Hearing- (H) Human Services
HB 528	(H) Hearing- (H) Local Government
HJ 20	(H) Committee Executive Action—Bill Passed-- (H) Business and Labor
SB 45	(S) Transmitted to House
SB 46	(S) Hearing-- (S) Local Government
SB 47	(S) Transmitted to House

subs and generals to try and work out amendments. It looked like an agreement was reached, but it fell apart the day before the hearing. We have appeared in opposition. We pointed out the problems with making the "owner's representative" responsible for receiving/giving notification as the bill required. Also the problems with stamping every sheet if a pay schedule other than monthly, was to be used. Rose Skoog, ACEC/MT, also appeared in opposition. Rose offered the amendments that had tentatively been agreed to. These amendments removed the reference to "owner's representative from throughout the bill and provided for any change in the payment schedule to be in the instruction's to bidders. In the end, the House Business committee passed the bill, with these amendments. The generals, not the subs, were the most effective on this bill. They downplayed the problems with prompt payment by owners within the state and pointed out the problems they have had with the "big box" retailers in getting payment, not just prompt.

Here is a brief description of most of the bills affecting our profession and the status of each one. For additional information please go to: <http://laws.leg.state.mt.us/pls/laws03/LAW0200WS.startup>:

Revise certain occupational licensing laws
Change membership of State Emergency Response Commission
Allow consideration of proposed fee in selecting certain consultants
Revising professional occupation & licensing laws
Revise laws related to bicycle traffic
Require authorizat'n to establish improved district
County fees for processing subdivision exemptns
Bicyclist & pedestrian planning for highways
Revise "facility" under major facility site act
Affordable housing criteria in subdivision review
Safety standards for public playgrounds
Prohibit construction equip in highway median
Revise treasure state endowment funding
Revise minor subdivision laws
At least 50% of workers on state construction project must be MT residents
Trust fund for fire suppression & land use plan
Revise construction prompt payment law
Remove property owner disapproval for annexing less than 300 parcels
Allow award of certain construction contracts on basis of best value
Change indemnification in insurance clauses for construction contracts
Revise professional employer organization and groups licensing act
Revise requirements for creating rural improvement districts
Request performance audits of professional and occupational licensing boards
Increase limit for professional services that may be directly negotiated
Revise bid requirements for large purchase or construction contracts
Increase bid threshold for certain projects paid with gas tax revenue

With several hundred bills dead at transmittal, the Legislature now concentrates on big picture issues such as balancing the budget and tax reform, as well as hearing bills in committee that made it through their house of origin.

MSU Engineering Outreach Program Update

Anders Larsson, PE, M.S., Adjunct Professor

The Engineering Outreach Program that the Civil Engineering Department at Montana State University has developed is really gearing up. This program is designed to expose second and third grade students from Montana to the engineering profession, and get young students excited about engineering and science at an early age. This is accomplished by hands-on exploration of two familiar components of engineering infrastructure, namely bridges and dams.

This program is now in partnership with the MSE, ASCE, ITE, and WTI. Local members of these professional organizations are being trained to conduct the outreach program within the schools of their communities. To date, engineering professionals around the state are being exposed to the program, getting together for training sessions, and are starting to take the program out to local elementary schools.

If you would like to get involved in this worthwhile program, or need more information, please contact the program coordinator:

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Welcome to Our New NSPE-MSE Member

MSE would like to welcome the following new members to NSPE/MSE. Please, do not hesitate to contact the MSE Office, any MSE Officers or other members if we can be of assistance to you!

W E L C O M E !

Dennis Wright, PE
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Revised NSPE Code of Ethics

Mary Ann Cannon, NSPE

As you may know, section III.9.e. was added to the NSPE Code of Ethics during the January 2003 NSPE Board of Directors meeting.

The #9 in section III states: Engineers shall give credit for engineering work to those to whom credit is due, and will recognize the proprietary interests of others. e. expands to include: Engineers shall continue their professional development throughout their careers and should keep current in their specialty fields by engaging in professional practice, participating in continuing education courses, reading in the technical literature, and attending professional meetings and seminars.

Included in this newsletter for your reference is the new NSPE Code of Ethics. Please discard your current copy. An electronic copy of the revised NSPE Code of Ethics can be found on the NSPE Web site: www.nspe.org/ethics/eh1-code.asp.

This program is designed to expose second and third grade students from Montana to the engineering profession, and get young students excited about engineering and science at an early age.

Section III.9.e. was added to the NSPE Code of Ethics during the January 2003 NSPE Board of Directors meeting.

Legislative Update — *Continued from Pg 4*

SB 83	(S) Transmitted to House	Allow MDT to consider "design/build" RFPs
SB 98	(S) Transmitted to House	Add personal care facilities to community residential facilities for zoning
SB 188	(S) Transmitted to House	Include electricians and plumbers in prevailing wage survey
SB 201	(S) Indefinitely Postponed in Committee-- (S) Business and Labor	Exempt certain cooperative purchasing from bid requirements
SB 225	(S) Indefinitely Postponed in Committee -- (S) Highways and Transportation	Rawhide stampede rustlers and rendezvous trade corridor
SB 236	(S) Referred to Committee--(S) Business and Labor	Revise building code enforcement jurisdiction
SB 268	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended-- (S) Business and Labor	Clarify plumbing activities for which permit not required
SB 281	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended-- (S) Judiciary	Create felony for moving survey monuments
SB 325	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed-- (S) Local Government	Revise restrictions on subdivision activities
SB 343	(S) Hearing-- (S) Local Government	Revise plan & zone district petition requirement
SB 355	(S) Hearing-- (S) State Administration	Preservation of monuments for land surveying
SB 372	(S) Hearing-- (S) Local Government	Revise local government competitive advertised bidding amounts
SJ 13	(S) Hearing-- (S) Energy and Telecommunications	Study energy efficiency building codes

The Warning Signs of Career Disaster

Many of us experience recurring dreams. Mine is that I'm driving down the freeway and I can't read the road signs until I'm right up close. By then it's too late: I've missed an important exit. Fortunately, it's just a dream. I wake up and all is fine. Unfortunately, many people have trouble reading signs—not road signs, but career warning signs.

A career warning sign is any change that indicates possible career disaster that could result in finding ones place in the unemployment line. While warning signs may vary according to employment situations, there are four basic warning signs that apply in most employment scenarios.

Warning Sign #1: Your industry is experiencing a down turn. Telecommunications is a perfect example. A few years back telecom was one of the fastest growing industries. Recruiters worked day and night to fill telecom positions at all levels. The first negative indicator was unmet earnings expectations. Those who paid attention left the industry. Persons who practice career management watch the growth trends within their industry and know to leave ahead of the crowd.

Warning Sign #2: Sales are down in your company. While not everyone within an organization is involved with sales, sales levels affect all jobs. When revenues decrease, profits are held steady by cutting costs, which often means cutting jobs. Persons can protect themselves by paying attention to sales levels within their organization.

While not all employees are privy to sales numbers, there are ways of finding pertinent financial information. Public companies must publish financial statements. It pays to take the time to study these documents to uncover your company's basic financial status.

Employees of non-public companies, even without the benefit of public financial information, can also read the signs of declining sales:

- * Work load decline.
- * *The boss suddenly seems concerned over small costs, like office pens, copier paper etc.*
- * The Sales Manager was just fired.
- * The Sales department is going through reorganization.

Alert employees are sensitive to such indicators. They keep their resume updated at all times and cultivate a growing professional network for potential future job leads.

Warning Sign #3: Management changes. Any management change has the potential of damaging your corporate position. Be watchful during:

- * Mergers and acquisitions.
- * String of short-term management tenure (i.e. three bosses in two years.)
- * Retirement or replacement of Sr. Management.

Wise employees listen closely to new-management rhetoric. How dramatic are his/her promises to shareholders? What's the new boss' track record? Does he/she have a reputation as a reactionary, axe-swinging job cutter, or as a strategic long-term planner who views employee reduction as a last resort? The first announcement of new management is the time to cautiously explore outside options.

Warning Sign #4: You've lost favor with your boss. While "gut feelings" often are the first warning, some objective indications are:

- * A less-than-exemplary performance review.
- * No performance-based salary increase.
- * Your year-end bonus was much smaller than expected.
- * Your input is not requested at planning meetings.
- * Your suggestions are ignored.

If you sense your position on the corporate totem pole is falling, trust your gut. When jobs are at stake, yours will be one of the first sacrificed.

These warning signs may seem obvious, but are often sadly ignored by those who fear change. Rather than take action, they lean on false hope that loyalty to the employer will pay off in the end. Those who practice career management never confuse company loyalty with aversion to change. When career-warning signs appear on the horizon, pick up your binoculars and read the signs clearly so that you're ready for the next appropriate exit.

Deborah Walker, CCMC
Deb@CareerShoppingBag.com
Nation's top Resume Writers & Career Coaches
Online Resume Distribution

New SF 330 to Replace SF 254/255 A/E Qualification Forms

GCI has confirmed the final requirements for the SF 330—the consolidated form that will replace the SF 254 and 255 Architect/Engineers Qualification forms. What's in and what's out?

- Current Section 9—Out
- 30 Example Projects—Out
- Project Pictures—Out
- Fee Disclosure—Out
- Page Numbers—Out
- Required Organization Charts—In
- Section G—In
- Expanded Project Descriptions—In

New profile codes will have exactly the same descriptions as the old codes to facilitate conversion from one code to another. Additional functions will be added, but contractors will have the option of using the previously assigned function if they choose.

When the new form comes out in May 2003, contractors will be required to comply within 6 months, says Don Evick, US Army Corps of Engineers. A drop-dead date will be developed.

A career warning sign is any change that indicates possible career disaster that could result in finding ones place in the unemployment line.

GCI has confirmed the final requirements for the SF 330—the consolidated form that will replace the SF 254 and 255 Architect/Engineers Qualification forms.

Two Inducted into Professional Engineers Hall of Fame

Doug Brekke, PE, President Elect

John H. Morrison, P.E. of Helena and Ben F. Hurlbut, P.E. of Billings are the inaugural inductees into the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame. Plaques honoring them will be hosted at the Montana State University College of Engineering in Bozeman.

The Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Montana Society of Engineers to honor Montana engineers who made significant contributions to the development of Montana and the engineering profession.

John H. Morrison graduated from Montana State College (now MSU in Bozeman) in 1927 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He was the chief bridge designer for the Montana Department of Transportation (1939-1945) and founded Morrison-Maierle, Inc. in 1945. Morrison worked on many of Montana's early water and wastewater treatment systems, including projects in Hamilton, Cut Bank, Columbia Falls, Billings, Bozeman and Kalispell. Other projects included the design of the Kooconusa Bridge near Libby (1972), seismic renovation of the Montana State Capitol (1963), and the Wolf Creek Canyon section of Interstate Highway 15 north of Helena (1966).

Morrison worked for legislation that created the Montana Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in 1947 and served as the board's first chairman. He holds Montana Professional Engineer license No. 1ES. He has further promoted engineering professionalism through active membership in several professional societies. Morrison recently celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends in Helena. For his lifetime of commitment to the highest professional standards, the Montana Society of Engineers honors him as an inaugural member of the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame.

Ben F. Hurlbut graduated from MSC in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. He founded HKM, Inc. in 1970. Hurlbut was the structural engineer for private and public buildings throughout Montana, including Billings West High School, Bozeman Senior High School, C.M Russell High School in Great Falls and schools in Livingston, Glendive, Miles City, Broadus, Red Lodge, Polson, and Missoula. He was the structural engineer for Brick Breeden Fieldhouse at MSU-Bozeman. At the time of its construction in 1956, the Fieldhouse was the largest clear-span, timber-frame dome in the world.

Hurlbut was a national director and co-founder of the Montana chapter of the American Council of Engineering Companies. He served on the Technical Review Board for the American Institute of Timber Construction and has been an active member of several other professional societies. For his lifetime of commitment to the highest professional standards, the Montana Society of Engineers honors him as an inaugural member of the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame.

See the insert in this newsletter to make your nomination for 2003.

The Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame is sponsored by the Montana Society of Engineers to honor Montana engineers who made significant contributions to the development of Montana and the engineering profession.

POSITION OPENINGS:

RLK—Kuusisto, a multi-disciplinary civil engineering consulting firm has the following openings in our Commercial/Residential Dept. in Minnetonka:

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER (Civil)

Engineering design and project management of land development projects. Requirements: B.S. in Civil Eng., P.E. license in MN, 8-10 years related civil eng. experience and strong tech. and communication skills.

PROJECT ENGINEER (Civil)

Engineering design work and implementation of a variety of land development projects. Requirements: B.S. in Civil Eng., E.I.T. Cert., 3-5 years of related civil eng. experience and strong tech. and communications skills. CAD experience preferred.

ENGINEERING TECH (Civil)

Designing/drafting of various land development construction plans. Requirements: 2 year technical degree and 3-5 years related civil eng. technician experience. Must have strong tech. skills.

SR. LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Site land planning, site landscaping, site zoning, etc. Experience w/ managing and overseeing production plans, project scope/timelines/budgets. Leadership position.

Excellent benefits & competitive salary. Resumes to: RLK-Kuusisto, Ltd., H.R., 6110 Blue Circle Dr., #100, Minnetonka, MN 55343. E-mail: krhodes@rlk-kuusisto.com. Website: www.rlk-kuusisto.com Equal Opportunity Employer

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**Technical societies
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NSPE/MSE represents who
you are.**

Invite an Engineer to Join

NSPE has spent the last seven years positioning to serve professional engineers in the twenty-first century. We're ready; are you?

NSPE is the society that takes you through the gateway to management. When it's time to move up...and ethics and integrity become more important than ever... NSPE is the credential that shows you are headed to the top.

NSPE's unique membership benefits complement your technical expertise. Technical societies represent what you do. NSPE/MSE represents who you are.

Montana Society of Engineers puts you in touch with other PEs locally, where your work is done. You are kept informed of trends in our state, new work in the region, new contacts locally. You keep in touch, keep current and keep being reminded of the pride you can have in your profession.

For a membership application, contact the MSE Office or go to www.nspe.org, click on JOIN NSPE and you will be taken right to an application that you can print out.

02-03 MSE Board

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