President's Message

Grant Gershmel, PE, President

As an engineer, it’s hard not to be biased on the impact that engineers make on our lives every day. The importance of engineers to any society has historically been of great importance, and that trend is only likely to increase over time. Engineers are, in effect, transforming the theoretical to the practical for the betterment of all. Because of engineering feats in both infrastructure and technology, our world is advancing at an exponential rate and our general standards of living have risen considerably. Our world continues to become rapidly more reliant on technology, and as such, the importance of the Engineer will follow suit.

With the importance of engineering, it is even more important that a system is in place that allows oversight of an adherence to a higher level of standards, the Professional Engineer. A Professional Engineering license is a certification that demonstrates an engineer’s commitment to exactly those standards. Requiring proof of skill and proficiency for individuals to work as engineers helps decrease the risk upon public welfare, health, and safety.

The Montana Society of Engineers is an organization dedicated to protecting the integrity of the Professional Engineer. As our Mission Statement says: “We are a society of engineering professionals from all disciplines that promotes the ethical and competent practice of engineering, advocates licensure, and enhances the image and well-being of its members.” For those who are members, thank you for helping promote the integrity of this commitment. If you are not yet a member, please consider how the importance of engineering, and thus competent engineering, continues to grow alongside the growth of our society.

Benefits of Membership in the Montana Society of Engineers

- Employs a lobbyist to advocate on behalf of Professional Engineers during the Montana State Legislature Sessions—both bill monitoring and testimony
- Your Montana Society of Engineers membership entitles you for member pricing at the annual Joint Engineers Conference held each November - this is a savings of $100 or more at most levels of the JEC registration fee schedule
- Montana Society of Engineers sponsors the Montana MATHCOUNTS program—this math competition is open to 6, 7, & 8 grade students—our future engineers
- Montana Society of Engineers created and maintains the Professional Engineers Hall of Fame at Montana State University—School of Engineers
- Montana Society of Engineers oversees and hosts the Gold Medal Award at the Colleges of Engineering at Montana State University and Montana Tech
- Montana Society of Engineers maintains a website with optional member directory—by individual or firm
- Montana Society of Engineers communicates directly with members through electronic newsletters and other forms communications

Cost of Annual Member Due: $60.00
History was made today at the Montana 2019 State MATHCOUNTS Competition when Edward Guthrie from Gallatin Valley Homeschool earned a place on the Montana’s National MATHCOUNTS Team for the third year in a row. Edward won this privilege as a 6th, 7th, and now 8th grade student. Only once before in the past 35 years has any Montana MATHCOUNTS student won this title all three years of their middle school career.

Teams of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student Mathletes™ from Montana middle schools competed in the State MATHCOUNTS Competition on Friday, March 15th at MT Tech in Butte. The top 102 math students in Montana from 32 middle schools participated. The highest four individual scorers, and the coach of the winning team, won an all-expense paid trip to the National MATHCOUNTS Competition to be held in Orlando on May 11th.

Edward Guthrie from Gallatin Valley Homeschool, Yuan Du from Missoula Washington Middle School, Cadien Archer from Lewis and Clark (Billings), and Jonas Zeiler from Lewis and Clark (Billings) won the top honors at the State Competition this year. These four students, along with Billings Lewis and Clark math coach Lisa Scott will represent Montana as our official state team at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Orlando in May.

According to Dan Munson, State MATHCOUNTS Coordinator for Montana, "This competition features the brightest middle school students in our state!" Teachers and students have been preparing for the competition since September. The students train within their schools before starting the formal competition. 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 their school team. From there, 574 students from 66 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 Orlando to represent Montana in the National MATHCOUNTS Competition and compete for individual and team 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. The competition consists of written tests and a fast-paced oral match.

Locally, MATHCOUNTS is organized by the Montana Society of Engineers, with local volunteer effort being provided by area engineers, students, and professionals. Additional information on MATHCOUNTS is available at www.mathcounts.org.

2019 Montana State MATHCOUNTS Winners: Coach Lisa Scott (Billings Lewis and Clark), Edward Guthrie (Gallatin Valley Homeschool), Yuan Du (Missoula Washington Middle School), Cadien Archer (Billings Lewis and Clark), and Jonas Zeiler (Billings Lewis and Clark)

The purpose of the MATHCOUNTS program is to motivate middle school students in mathematics and interest them in technology related careers. It is designed to create interest and enthusiasm in mathematics by creating an environment similar to athletic programs, including intensive training, competition, teamwork and recognition. Widely recognized as an effective middle school mathematics coaching and competition program, 85% of MATHCOUNTS participants end up pursuing a career in a STEM related field. MATHCOUNTS has been equipping middle school students with math skills for 36 years.

2019 M o n t a n a  S t a t e  M A T H C O U N T S

2019 MATHCOUNTS Winners: Coach Lisa Scott (Billings Lewis and Clark), Edward Guthrie (Gallatin Valley Homeschool), Yuan Du (Missoula Washington Middle School), Cadien Archer (Billings Lewis and Clark), and Jonas Zeiler (Billings Lewis and Clark)

Just how hard is this math? Try the Problem of the Week on the MATHCOUNTS website: www.MATHCOUNTS.org
Click on "Go Figure!" math challenge to test your skills.
Montana MATHCOUNTS Mathletes™ benefit from dedicated math coaches at each of the participating schools. These coaches receive additional tools from the MATHCOUNTS program. But, the MATHCOUNTS program would not be possible without financial sponsors and volunteers at every level.

Montana MATHCOUNTS is possible because of these sponsors:

- Ash Grove Cement Company
- Bison Engineering
- Blackfoot Communications
- CHS
- Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation
- DOWL, LLC
- Electrical Consultants, Inc.
- ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Company
- Great West Engineering, Inc.
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- Robert Peccia & Associates
- Sibanye Stillwater Mining Company
- SK Geotechnical
- Western Sugar Cooperative
- Westmoreland Coal Company
- Whitten & Borges, PC
- Yellowstone Electric Company
- Yellowstone Valley Electric CoOp

In addition to our sponsors, Montana MATHCOUNTS is blessed to have many dedicated volunteers! This includes our coordinators:

- Dan Munson—Billings Chapter and State Coordinator;
- Aaron Jewett—North Central Chapter Coordinator;
- Mike Hunter—Eastern Montana Chapter Coordinator;
- Jason Williams—Kalispell Chapter Coordinator;
- Sean Everett—Western Montana Chapter Coordinator;
- Cammy Dooley—Bozeman Chapter Coordinator;
- Chelsea Loomis—Butte Chapter Coordinator

Each of these Coordinators depend on the volunteer efforts of many engineers and others that give time to help with competitions in many roles such as scorers, proctors, photographers, setup and much more. A special thank you needs to go out to Mike Keene who not only spear headed MSE’s involvement in the MATHCOUNTS program as the original Billings and State Coordinator but remains one of our most devoted fundraisers.

THANK YOU ALL!!

Montana MATHCOUNTS appreciates and shares a heartfelt THANK YOU to each and everyone of these sponsors. We salute you!!!

Want to get involved? Visit with any of the Coordinators or contact the MSE Office: mse@assoc-mgt.com
We would love to have your help!!
Montana Society of Engineers Seeks Nominations for Engineering Hall of Fame

MSU News Service
February 19, 2019

BOZEMAN — The Montana Society of Engineers is once again inviting nominations for the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame, which celebrates outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and to the public welfare of Montana.

Recipients are honored with a commemorative plaque that resides at Montana State University in Roberts Hall, the original home of the MSU’s engineering college.

"We know that there are Montana engineers out there who are deserving of this award," said Dan McCauley, the hall’s 2017 inductee and a Montana Society of Engineers volunteer who is spearheading the selection process. "We just need some help finding them."

Active, retired or deceased engineers are eligible for the award, which is given annually at the Joint Engineers Banquet in November. Nominations will be accepted through March 31. Last year’s recipient was Ted Lang, whose 48-year career at MSU included groundbreaking discoveries about snow avalanches and instructing hundreds of students in engineering fundamentals. McCauley, who earned his bachelor’s in civil engineering at MSU in 1980, was honored for contributing to projects such as wastewater treatment plants and bridges in dozens of Montana communities. In 2016, the late Lloyd Berg was inducted to commemorate his impact as head of MSU’s chemical engineering department for 33 years, during which he pioneered the recruitment of women students.

Since the award was first given in 2002, about half the recipients have a connection to MSU, McCauley noted. But the only requirements are that nominees have been professionally licensed in Montana and have had a direct impact on the state.

The Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame, which currently includes 20 honorees, was created by the late Doug Brekke in 2002, about half the recipients have a connection to MSU, McCauley noted. But the only requirements are that nominees have been professionally licensed in Montana and have had a direct impact on the state.

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This article was republished with permission—here is the link to the original publication: http://www.montana.edu/news/18431/montana-society-of-engineers-seeks-nominations-for-engineering-hall-of-fame

Contact: Dan McCauley, dmccauley@greatwesteng.com or 406-495-6151.

The Montana PE Hall of Fame Wall can be found in Cobleigh Hall on the MSU Bozeman Campus

History of the MSE Montana PE Hall of Fame

Mr. Douglas L. Brekke, P.E., former President of the Montana Society of Engineers (MSE), served as the driving force in the dream and ultimate realization of the Montana Professional Engineers Hall of Fame. Doug had a vision to honor those Montana Engineers that have dedicated their knowledge and skill to the advancement and betterment of human welfare. His vision included a space where engineers past, present and future would marvel at the accomplishments of many of their fellow professionals. Doug worked to secure financial support and enthusiasm for this endeavor through the early 2000’s. In 2002 his dream was realized when the College of Engineering offered to serve as the permanent host for the newly minted Engineering Hall of Fame on the campus of Montana State University in Bozeman, MT.

The MSE Board entertains nominees annually, as put forward by the HOF Standing Committee which currently consists of Dan McCauley (Chair), Willis Wetstein (Previous HOF Inductee), Brett Gunnink (Dean of MSU College of Engineering), and Cammy Dooley (Immediate Past President of MSE).

To make a nomination, visit http://www.mtengineers.org/montana-pe-hall-of-fame/
The biggest development this week is around the Bonding Bill. HB 14 that was the Governor’s Bill does not appear to be the Bill that will be moving forward. HB 652 Revise the long range building bonding program sponsored by Rep Mike Hopkins along with HB 553 Generally revise infrastructure funding laws sponsored by Rep Eric Moore are the bills with the most support that are moving forward. Most groups feel that these bills do not go far enough, especially with regard to local funding, but they are a step in the right direction. And if passed, there would be a Bonding Bill in place, which has not happened in past sessions.

SB 307 Generally revising alternative project delivery laws has a hearing scheduled for Mar. 26th. This is the bill that would allow for Public/Private Partnerships.

HB 295 Create grant program to encourage work-based learning sponsored by Rep Fred Anderson passed House Appropriations and passed second reading today 83 to 17.

HB 661 Revise aviation fuel taxation has been referred to House Taxation. This bill is sponsored by Rep Geraldine Custer. This is a contentious bill and one that you might want to review if you do aviation work. This distribution of aviation fuel taxes will be redistributed as part of this bill.

HB 674 Increase gas tax distribution to recreation-related programs has just been introduced and referred to House Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This was introduced in the interim and faced a lot of opposition. The bill is sponsored by Rep Kerry White who opposed the gas tax increase in the 2017 Session and he now wants to siphon off a portion of the money for recreation uses. This bill will face a number of opponents in the hearing. I would suggest we join the opponents and state that the money should be used to fund critical infrastructure.

Jennifer James, MSE Lobbyist
406-459-2926
In 1959, the National Society of Professional Engineers reached out to the Montana Society of Engineers to see if there would be any interest in affiliating with them as a State Chapter of NSPE. The goal of both organizations was to standardize the path to licensed professional engineer across the country. Once the process was standardized, reciprocity across state lines would be possible.

NSPE shared MSE’s desire to encourage professional engineers to maintain a high level of ethical practice and to promote the profession to new levels of respect. MSE affiliated with NSPE to help add strength and voice to insure that licensed professional engineers were recognized.

NSPE developed and promoted ethical practice. These ethics continue to be updated and revised to reflect today’s PE practice. For more information, please visit: https://www.nspe.org/resources/ethics/code-ethics

NSPE promoted leadership development, practice divisions, engineer recognition programs, contract documents, MathCounts, advocacy at both the National and State level. NSPE welcomed licensed engineers, surveyors and those on the path to be licensed in those fields.

NSPE required membership at both the State and National level.

Over time NSPE sold off the contract documents, eliminated surveyor membership, split off MathCounts to be a stand alone non-profit and adopted several new business models in an effort to remain viable. Many state chapter repeatedly polled NSPE to allow for State Only membership so that the state chapters had a path to remain viable. NSPE granted such membership under strict guidelines until 2017.

... More to come in the future!

Articles for 1st Quarter 2019 newsletter are due on March 10, 2019 to the MSE Office.

M S E  
Office

1629 Avenue D, Ste B6
PO Box 20996
Billings, MT 59104

Phone: 406-259-7300
E-mail: mse@assoc-mgt.com

http://www.mtengineers.org/

2018/2019 MSE Executive Board

Grant Gershmel, President
grant.gershmel@hdrinc.com

Thomas J. Moody, President Elect
thomas.moody@northwestern.com

Jean Riley, Vice President
jriley@mt.gov

Karl Yakawich, Secretary/Treasurer
kyakawich@greatwesteng.com

Cammy Dooley, President
cammy.dooley@northwestern.com

Key MSE Committee Chairs

Dan Munson, MathCount Coordinator
Dan.Munson@northwestern.com

Crystal Kuntz, JEC Committee Chair
crystal.kuntz@eciblgs.com

Dan McCauley, MT PE HOF Chair
dmccauley@greatwesteng.com

MSE JEC Committee members Tom Moody and Jean Riley are actively looking for speakers for MSE sessions at the 2019 JEC. Prospective speakers can make session proposals on-line at: http://www.mtengineers.org/joint-engineers-conference/

These proposals are due by March 31, 2019. Presenters of accepted session receive a free registration to the 2019 JEC and all travel expenses paid. For more information, contact the MSE JEC Committee Members or the MSE Office.