4th Annual Midwest Design Competition

MA Collaboration & Partnerships.
Joe Lapastora – MSDC Chair
Overview

- Evolution of CSWEA Student Design Competition into Midwest Student Design Competition (MSDC).
- MSDC Planning and Additional MA Participation
- Structure of Competition
- Participating Parties
- Financial Support
- Lessons Learned & Takeaways
Evolution of Central States WEA Student Design Competition.

- 2023 marks the 9th year CSWEA hosted its SDC. (2014 – Current)
- Prior to 2020 competition, the SDC was only open to Universities within the Central States.
- 2014 & 2015 featured exclusively WEF categories.
- The GWS Problem Statement was introduced in 2016.
- Idea for Regional Competition (MSDC) started in 2018/19. CSWEA saw a mutually beneficial approach to bring in Universities that lie outside of CSWEA and fall under a neighboring MA who had not historically hosted an SDC. More student opportunities and also knowledge sharing across MAs.
Planning for the 1st Annual MSDC started in summer of 2019.

We had a scenario play out, where an Iowa team was forwarded our competition rollout documents.

Chain of communication was started between Iowa WEA and Central States WEA.

Started approaching other Midwest MAs and gauged interest
- *Costa Rica WEA*
- **Indiana WEA**
- **Iowa WEA**
- *Michigan WEA*
- *North Dakota WEA*
- *South Dakota WEA*

*New WEF Member Association
**Had University participate in this year’s MSDC.
MSDC Structure

- Three (3) Categories;
  - *WEF* – Water Environment Category
  - *WEF* – Wastewater Category
  - *Global Water Stewardship* Category

- *WEF* Categories are open to CSWEA and any Universities within the surrounding MAs who approved participation.

- The *GWS* Category had historically been open to any team on a national level but in 2020 we expanded to allow teams to compete from outside the US.
## Participation by the Numbers 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Teams</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of WEF MAs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Student Engaged</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Professors Engaged</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Judges Engaged</td>
<td>14</td>
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</tbody>
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Financial Support for Design Teams

- CSWEA provides a $500 stipend to all U.S. teams to help cover travel/lodging expenses to our competition.
  - This has historically been covered via a WEF Seed Grant that CSWEA was awarded in 2020.
- We simultaneously encourage students to seek additional funding opportunities via their University’s Registrars office.
- Last resort – Our committee reaches out to non-CSWEA MA’s to request additional $$ for design team(s), if needed.
Student Opportunities

- Career Fair.
- Resume collection and disbursement to MSDC sponsors.
- Attend CSWEA Education Seminar with CSWEA covering registration fee.
- Plug YP committees for WEF, CSWEA, and GWS.
- Encourage Industry professionals to come to Madison a day early and network with the students.
Takeaways

- The MSDC continues to be a huge success!
- COMMUNICATION IS KEY!
- We are happy to continue hosting Universities outside of CSWEA, however, our ultimate goals are to keep growing our competition while also hoping that a MA branches off and hosts their own SDC.
- For any WEF staff who has a voice at the Student Design Competition Level.. CSWEA is pushing for a third category for teams working on Service Projects (e.g. EWB & GWS Projects)
- To date, we have received confirmation from the following Midwest MAs to allow University Design Teams to compete at MSDC
  - Iowa WEA *
  - Indiana WEA *
  - Missouri WEA *
  - North Dakota WEA
  - South Dakota WEA
  - Michigan WEA
- SIX (6) teams who competed at MSDC will go on to compete at WEFTEC.
  - This includes Washington University in St. Louis which will be the first Missouri team to compete at WEFTEC.
Thank You

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QUESTIONS?