DE Mathletes Get Ready for National Competition

Congratulations to the student team that will represent Delaware during the 2024 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS Competition finals, May 11-14 in Washington, DC. The event is a celebration of the incredible mathletes, educators, volunteers, alumni, and education advocates who make MATHCOUNTS possible. The thrilling Countdown Round will take place on May 13 and is open to the public (registration required). Access information about the mathletes and competition events here.

Delaware MATHCOUNTS Team
Eddie Chen (7th grade) - HB DuPont Middle School - Hockessin, DE
Eric Chen (7th grade) - PS DuPont Middle School – Wilmington, DE
Satya Kokonda (8th grade) - Stanford Online High School – Wilmington - Wilmington, DE
Jahl Miraji-Khot (8th grade) - Alfred G Waters Middle School – Middletown, DE
Scott Cook (Coach) - HB DuPont Middle School - Hockessin, DE

DE’s First Natural Gas Energy Efficiency Program Makes Headway

The Delaware Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC), aiming to help Delawareans reduce energy loss and cost through energy efficiency programs, recently convened to discuss energy efficiency program and research updates, Delaware Public Media reports.

Chesapeake Utilities Energy Conservation Manager Derrick Craig presented on new developments with Delaware's first natural gas energy efficiency program after facing legal challenges. He said the energy efficiency program is aimed at reducing carbon emissions and fostering more sustainability throughout Delaware.

The program was filed with the Delaware Public Service Commission in September 2023 but has been facing legal setbacks ever since. The Division of the Public Advocate filed a petition to intervene toward the end of 2023, but Craig said he
could not provide too many details on the nature of the lawsuit.

"There was some concern about the Standard Offer Program, whether it really was going to be able to provide what was needed for the commercial and industrial customers, as well as whether there was a need for it. In addition, there were some discussions as far as the calculations that the rate recovery was based on," he said.

The Standard Offer Program would provide flexibility to corporations seeking funding for cost-effective energy efficient projects that may not be financially viable otherwise. Read more.

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**Flood Insurance Forum Emphasizes Growing Need for Coverage**

As climate change continues to create more severe weather patterns globally, Delaware Sea Grant, DNREC, DEMA, and others are emphasizing flood insurance as a necessity for many. A recent flood insurance forum in Lewes followed a temporary closure of Route 1 due to a dune breach and tidal flooding onto the highway, according to a Delaware Public Media report.

Delaware Sea Grant Coastal Hazards specialist Danielle Swallow says coastal flooding is Delaware’s top environmental hazard, and adds experts estimate there has been about 16 inches of sea level rise in the last 100 years, and predicts another 18 inches in just the next 30 years.

"47% of Delaware residents say they've already observed local impacts, and this was back in 2019," Swallow says. "The state is going to be another survey this year to really assess climate perceptions again. And it will be interesting to see because I can see more impacts."

One of the biggest contributors to worsening weather conditions is climate change, Swallow says. The state is projecting that precipitation overall may not increase in the next several years, but there will be more days of significant rainfall all at once. Climate experts in Delaware are also projecting warmer high and low temperatures year-round and more days that reach 90 degrees or more. Read more.

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**Delaware Tech Moves to Drop Renewable Energy Degree Programs**

Delaware Technical Community College will no longer accept new students to degree programs focused on energy, the Delaware News Journal reports.

These two-year degree programs in energy management, renewable energy solar
and building automation systems will be discontinued by fall 2024, as Dean of
Instruction John Buckley alerted to some of the college community via email last
month.

Students who have completed enough coursework to graduate in May 2025 will be
able to finish their degrees. Any student below that threshold will not get the same
chance, though the college says advisers can assist in finding alternatives. From
there, Delaware Tech is wrapping up these programs, while still looking to
"evaluate opportunities" like providing short-term certification tracks.

"While we recognize the importance of energy education, there are a variety of
factors that impact this decision," Buckley wrote to the program advisory
committee, as well as students in another three-paragraph email. The Charles L.
Terry Jr. Campus leader cited continued low enrollment in the programs largely
consolidated in Dover, with some courses running with as few as three students.

"Efforts have been made for years to increase enrollment and better connect with
student demand," he continues in an email. "But the programs have not sustained
the levels of growth necessary to support continuing in our current structure." Read
more.

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the NSPE Advocacy Center.

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**Connect and Learn at NSPECOn24**
Registration is open for NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9), the prime national event for professional engineers to engage and connect with their peers and to advance their careers. The early-bird discount rates are available until June 27. Access registration information and rates here. Access the preliminary conference program for details on keynote speakers and session topics.

The deadline for reserving a hotel room at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley for the NSPECon24 rate is July 15. We encourage you to make your reservation early since there are a limited number of conference rate hotels rooms available.

NSPECon24 also offers a variety of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses.

Welcome to Our 2024 Sponsors!
New Program: Leadership Institute for Women PEs

NSPE’s Women Leadership Program is sponsoring the Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, a three-day program designed to support mid-career women PEs in confidently navigating their career path and leveraging their leadership skills.

The institute agenda is interwoven into the NSPECon24 program with participants attending pre-conference opening sessions on Wednesday, August 7, and sessions the mornings of Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Attendees must register for NSPECon24 to attend the institute.

Access more information and register.

QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2024 QBS Awards. The QBS Awards program promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process in three categories: federal government sector, state governor sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment
sector. The deadline for nominations is June 7 (close of business). **Access the awards information and nomination form.**

Read a *PE* magazine article about a longtime champion of QBS.

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