



The Central States Water Environment Association

Greetings,

On behalf of the [Central States Water Environment Association](#) (CSWEA) we would like to introduce you to a few student opportunities offered through the 5th Annual Midwest Student Design Competition (MSDC). This year, the competition will be held on **Monday, April 8, 2024** in Madison, Wisconsin at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. This is a unique opportunity for students at the college level to demonstrate their ability to evaluate alternatives, develop a comprehensive design, and present a solution that meets the requirements of a socially relevant problem statement in the water and wastewater fields.

There are three (3) categories available at the Midwest Student Design Competition. Two (2) [Water Environment Federation](#) (WEF) Categories are open to students from Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and Michigan. Note that student teams from universities who fall outside of the States mentioned above may be granted permission to compete at the MSDC, so long as a design team receives permission from their respective WEF Member Association. The [Global Water Stewardship](#) (GWS) Category is open to all students.

WEF Categories: For the Midwest Student Design Competition, there are two (2) different Water Environment Federation (WEF) categories student teams can compete in; [Wastewater Design Category](#) and [Water Environment Design Category](#) (See attached guidelines for category requirements and typical projects). The WEF categories are intended to feed into the international student design competition at the annual WEFTEC conference, which is scheduled for October 6, 2024 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Travel and lodging stipends for the winning team(s) to attend the WEFTEC student design competition in New Orleans will vary depending on the student's respective WEF Member Association (MA).

GWS Category: The Global Water Stewardship (GWS) Category requires student teams to design a centralized wastewater treatment facility and collection system for a Costa Rican community that has been chosen as a partner community by the Global Water Stewardship NGO. This year's problem statement is titled "Global Water Stewardship: Horquetas, Costa Rica". The winning team will receive a stipend of up to \$1,000/student, for up to four students, for travel and lodging expenses to accompany GWS members on a future August fact-finding trip to Costa Rica and to present their project to local community representatives.

CSWEA shall provide a stipend in the amount of \$500 per team for lodging and travel expenses to assist student teams from Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota universities to present at the Midwest Student Design Competition in April. Funding may also be provided to student teams who fall outside of the States listed above, pending discussions between CSWEA and applicable student teams and their respective WEF Member Association. Design projects from any semester/trimester coursework are eligible, so long as it is from the 2023-24 academic calendar year. University faculty are invited to attend the competition to support their student design team(s). Note that this year's MSDC will also offer its third annual career fair in conjunction with the competition. Please read over the attached guidelines and provide this information to any interested students who may benefit from such an experience.

Should you have any questions or if you need additional information on how to participate, we can be contacted via email at lapastora@nmwrd.org and hengelpromc@bv.com.

Sincerely,

Joe Lapastora & Christine Hengel-Prom
CSWEA Midwest Student Design Competition (MSDC) Co-Chairs