



Friend of the Milwaukee Regional Science and Engineering Fair:

The Milwaukee Regional Science and Engineering Fair was just a dream in the hearts and minds of a few individuals in 2000. Now, MRSEF is on the verge of being one of the most important components in the synergistic effort of leaders in our region to accomplish what has seemed impossible: increase the number of minority students entering science, math, engineering, and technology careers in Milwaukee. The new concerned leaders know that we must start in middle and high school to provide the number of scientists and engineers needed in the next ten to fifteen years.

Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton said that our high school graduation rates are down, our proficiency test scores are low, and students who are graduating in science, math, engineering, and technology are a small percent of those needed by companies in our region and that **minority STEM graduates** are an even smaller number. She pointed out that our citizens must compete globally for jobs in the 21st Century, and it will take all of us working together to assure that our community does what it needs to do to assure those jobs will be given to our Wisconsin citizens, rather than citizens in foreign lands.

In 2005, MRSEF had 40 judges from Milwaukee area colleges, universities, and businesses; the number of judges doubled in 2006 due to the increase in participants. The overall winner of MRSEF in 2005, Precious Raspberry, went on to the International Environmental Project Olympiad (INEPO) in Istanbul, Turkey, and at only age 14 won a silver medal, the highest award from anyone entering from the United States. Not only the media, but also the City's Common Council and the County's Supervisors recognized the achievements of Precious Raspberry even before she left for Turkey because she had won the Milwaukee Regional Science & Engineering Fair and had been accepted for competition at INEPO. This is proof of the credibility of MRSEF and makes it a winner.

MRSEF is a winner for our youth and Milwaukee County because it means that students from WCA, many of whom are underprivileged and at-risk, and other schools in southeastern Wisconsin can compete, meet, and win. At MRSEF, students will not only be exposed to stiff competition but will also be able to meet judges who represent our top institutions of higher learning, and have a chance to go to international competitions. MRSEF winners themselves have received scholarships, medals, and most of all good exposure to the best in Milwaukee.

Companies might want to participate by doing one or more of the following:

- Provide judges for MRSEF 2007
- Provide mentors for students independently of or in conjunction with our Science Saturdays
- Provide scholarships
- Provide imprinted items like folders, pens, hats, etc.
- Participate in a Science Saturday until spring of 2008
- Provide materials and in-kind items for science project implementation
- Provide lab space and an expert for a certain phase of the student's science project

Mission

The **Mission** of the Milwaukee Regional Science and Engineering Fair (MRSEF) is to motivate Milwaukee area students to apply creativity and critical thought to the solution of science, engineering, math, and technological problems and enter institutions of higher learning with the skills necessary to graduate with qualifications to win high-paying jobs in the Milwaukee area. Fair promotes science, math and technology in the Greater Milwaukee Area.

Vision

The Vision of MRSEF is that students who enter the fair and meet representatives from Marquette, Alverno, MATC, MSOE, and UW-Milwaukee will go to our local institutions of higher learning, and then remain in Milwaukee to work at local companies, who need employees in the areas of science, engineering, math, and technology.

Eligibility

The MRSEF, organized by Wisconsin Career Academy (WCA), is the only regional science and engineering fair for students in grades 5-12 in Milwaukee County and Southeast Wisconsin. Students who wish to apply may do so by filling out an application and mailing or emailing it to MRSEF Attn: Sherry Hill, 4801 S. 2nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53207 by February 22, 2008 . There is no fee for students to participate in MRSEF 2008.

How large is MRSEF?

More than 30 schools and 250 exhibits are expected to participate.

Affiliations

MRSEF is affiliated with the Intel Corporation's International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), The International Environmental Project Olympiad (INEPO), The Badger State Science and Engineering Fair, The Stockholm Junior Water Prize, ACT-SO, and The Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge.

MRSEF Staff

MRSEF is organized by WCA and run by the MRSEF Executive Director, with the support of the WCA science, math, and technology departments and the MRSEF Advisory Board.

DIVISIONS AND CATEGORIES AT MRSEF

JUNIOR DIVISION (5-8 Grades)

- Math and Computers
- Physical Science
- Environmental Science
- Life Science

SENIOR DIVISION (9-12 Grades)

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Math and Computer Science
- Social and Behavioral Science
- Health and Medicine
- Environmental Science
- Engineering

FACTS OF THE FAIR

- The MRSEF, organized by Wisconsin Career Academy (WCA), is the only regional science and engineering fair for students in grades 5-12 in Milwaukee County and Southeastern Wisconsin.
- It is open to all schools in southeastern Wisconsin.
- It is run by an advisory board and a science fair team.
- MRSEF was awarded an \$80,000 DPI Dissemination Grant for MRSEF 2006 and \$150,000 DPI Dissemination Grant for MRSEF 2007.
- It is affiliated with six national and international science, math and engineering fairs.
- It is the largest fair in Wisconsin in terms of projects and judge involvement.
- MRSEF brings more than 200 students together from southeastern Wisconsin during the fair.
- MRSEF has had over 90 judges from local universities and companies for 2007 event.
- Since its inception MRSEF has had approximately 727 projects with more than 1000 students and 59 different schools participated.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- GE
- Clear Channel Outdoor
- Medical College
- Clear Channel
- AESF

A goal of MRSEF is to close the achievement gap by bringing “hands on” learning into the classroom that then leads to developing science, math and engineering projects. In order to reach these goals, MRSEF needs your support. We are already underway for MRSEF 2008 to be held on March 7 (judging) and March 8 (awards ceremony). If you have any questions, please call Sherry Hill at 414-483-2117 ext. 114.

Sincerely,

Kemal Kaman
Executive Director