



Greetings,

On behalf of the [Central States Water Environment Association](#) (CSWEA) we would like to introduce you to a few opportunities offered through the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual [Midwest Student Design Competition](#) (MSDC). This year, the competition will be held on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 in Madison, Wisconsin at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. For the first time the MSDC will be held simultaneously with the annual CSWEA Education Seminar. The competition 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.

This year, there will be three (3) categories for student participation at the Midwest Student Design Competition. The two (2) [Water Environment Federation](#) (WEF) Categories are open to students from Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and Michigan. 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 final category is the [Global Water Stewardship](#) (GWS) Category and is open to all students.

**WEF Categories:** For the MSDC, there are two (2) 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 September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Chicago, Illinois. 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).

**Global Water Stewardship (GWS) Category:** The 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: Santa Teresa, 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 Service Trip to Costa Rica where they will present their project to Santa Teresa community representatives.

CSWEA provides a \$500 stipend 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 is also available to student teams from South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, and Michigan. Design projects from any semester/trimester coursework are eligible only if it is from the 2024-25 academic calendar year. Design teams who are not competing as part of a senior design or capstone course are also permitted so long as they are University students. University faculty are invited to attend the competition to support their student design team(s). For the first time, this year's MSDC will run concurrently with the Education Seminar, making the day even more valuable for student learning and development.

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](mailto:lapastora@nmwrd.org) and [akrupa@msa-ps.com](mailto:akrupa@msa-ps.com).

Sincerely,

Alexis Krupa and Joe Lapastora

CSWEA Midwest Student Design Competition (MSDC) Co-Chairs