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Massachusetts Kicks Off Middle School Math Enrichment Program**134 schools participating; Students seek to defend our state's National First-Place Status**

November 2013 - Middle schools across Massachusetts are taking advantage of the opportunity to participate in MATHCOUNTS, a nationwide math enrichment, coaching and competition program for students in grades 6 through 8. The program is made possible through the local support and leadership of the Massachusetts Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE.com).

MATHCOUNTS promotes math achievement with all the challenge of a school sports event. Student Mathletes train individually and in teams, and can compete in local, state and national competitions. Prizes are awarded at all levels, and the top four students in Massachusetts will receive a free trip to Orlando, Florida, for the 2014 MATHCOUNTS National Competition.

This school year, **134 middle schools throughout Massachusetts** have registered for the MATHCOUNTS National Math Club Program, and 57 of them have also registered for the MATHCOUNTS Competition Series Program. More than 800 students statewide will participate.

This year is especially important, because Massachusetts students will seek to defend the National Championship Title they have earned for the past two years, in 2012 and 2013.

Last year, 839 students from 109 schools competed in six chapter-level events. In December and January each school selected up to 10 students to represent them at chapter level competitions, held in February. In March, the students and individuals who scored highest proceeded to the State Competition, held at Wentworth Institute of Technology. State competition winners advanced to represent Massachusetts at the National MATHCOUNTS Competition in Washington, DC in May, where they won as team and individual champions for the second year in a row, against 224 of the nation's brightest students representing 56 teams.

John Hayden, MA State Coordinator, explains, "The excitement is building as students prepare for competitions and to defend our national first-place status next May. But overall, truly EVERY student will benefit just from participating in this excellent program."

VOLUNTEERS & SPONSORS NEEDED

Hayden anticipates that 100 volunteers will assist the program's six Chapters, including: Connecticut Valley (Springfield area), Central (Shrewsbury area), Metro West (Weston area), Metro (Melrose area), Northeast (Chelmsford area) and Southeast (Plymouth area). **Volunteer positions currently needed** (no experience is necessary), include: Northeast Chapter Coordinator, Southeast Chapter Coordinator, volunteers to assist with organizing the local and state competitions, and volunteers to proctor and score exams.

Sponsors are also needed to provide supplies or tax-deductible donations to help defray the costs of: Food for 800+ students at the six state-wide chapter competitions; Transportation of students to chapter competitions; Trophies for chapter and state winners; postage, MA team t-shirts supplies.

ABOUT MATHCOUNTS: For info about MATHCOUNTS in Massachusetts, visit www.mspe.com and www.mathcounts.org, or contact John J. Hayden, P.E., MA State Coordinator at 781-221-1198 or jhayden@fstinc.com