Successes and Lessons Learned to Strengthen MAs and WEF.
Overview

■ Evolution of CSWEA Student Design Competition
■ MSDC Planning and Additional MA Participation
■ Structure of Competition
■ Participating Parties
■ Adjustments in light of COVID-19
■ Lessons Learned & Takeaways
Evolution of Central States WEA Student Design Competition.

- This was the 6\textsuperscript{th} year CSWEA hosted its SDC. (2014 – Current)
- Prior to this year’s competition, the SDC was only open to Universities within the Central States.
- 2014 & 2015 featured exclusively WEF categories.
- The GWS Problem Statement was introduced in 2016.
- Idea for Regional Competition (MSDC) came to fruition in 2018. CSWEA saw a mutually beneficial approach to bring in Universities that lie outside of CSWEA and fall under a neighboring MA who not have hosted a Spring SD.
MSDC Planning

- Planning for the MSDC started in summer of 2019.
- We had a scenario, where an Iowa team was forwarded our WEF invite.
- Chain of communication was started between Iowa WEA and Central States WEA.
- Started approaching other MA. Gauged interest from the following MAs:
  - Costa Rica WEA*
  - Indiana WEA**
  - Iowa WEA**
  - Michigan WEA
  - North Dakota WEA
  - South Dakota WEA

*New WEF Member Association
**Had University participate in this year’s MSDC.
MSDC Structure

- Three (3) Categories;
  - WEF – Environmental Category
  - WEF – Wastewater Category
  - Global Water Stewardship Category

- Note that the WEF Categories were open to any Universities within the surrounding MAs who approved participation.

- The Global Water Stewardship Category had historically been open to any team on a national level but this year we expanded to allow teams to compete from outside the US.
## Participation by the Numbers

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Planned</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Teams</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Schools</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of WEF MAs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Student Engaged</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Professors Engaged</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Judges Engaged</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>28</td>
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Bear in mind that COVID-19 had created a virtual reality of the outcomes.
Adjustment to Virtual amid COVID-19

- Presentation format changed to a recorded video submission to Google Drive folder.
- Maintained 20-minute presentation time limit.
- Granted 1-week extension for submissions.
- Adjusted scoring rubric.
- Judges were asked to watch video recordings and submit scores for a quick turnaround.
- 10-minute Q/A sessions were conducted via Zoom. These were recorded and uploaded to the Google Drive for all judges to review for the Q/A judging section.
- Hosted Virtual Award Ceremony to announce winners of each category.
Due to the nature of moving the competition to a virtual format, CSWEA SDC leadership felt that the students would miss out on some great opportunities that are typically provided at the in-person competition. The following adjustments were made to alleviate those concerns.

- Resumes collected and provided to any corporate donors
- Mentorship Program
- Plugged membership at the MA level as well as WEF membership
- Increased social media presence
Takeaways

- By all means, the First Annual Midwest Student Design Competition was a SUCCESS!
- COMMUNICATION IS KEY!
- Increased YP Engagement
- Power of Social Media
- Indiana and Iowa WEA now possess a better understanding of what makes a Spring SDC successful.
- Furthermore, CSWEA is ready to host regional competitions, should WEF decide to move to that format.
- For any WEF staff who has a voice at the Student Design Competition Level.. CSWEA is pushing for a third category for teams working on Service Projects (e.g. EWB & GWS Projects)
Thank You

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QUESTIONS?