



Moody's Mega Math Challenge® 2011

M3Challenge.siam.org

Education professionals are enthusiastic!

"The M³ Challenge is a fabulous competition and opportunity to make math come alive for students. Not only did [our] team have a great experience, but in preparing their presentation in front of other students, they were able to show practical applications to the mathematics we study in the classroom. I hope you will continue and expand your program; every student can benefit from the experience and exposure."

David Gelb, Teacher-Coach, Hunterdon Central Regional High School, Flemington, New Jersey
2008 M³ Challenge Fifth Place (Exemplary Team Prize)

"I think it is a wonderful experience. My students told me that they had a great time and that the day flew by. They said they learned a lot not only about the [challenge topic], but also about working in teams when faced with a deadline."

Amanda Carrico, Teacher-Coach, Brookville Jr. - Sr. High School, Brookville, Pennsylvania
2010 M³ Challenge Participant

"Moody's Mega Math Challenge is an excellent venue for students to apply critical thinking skills to real-life problems that have immediate relevancy. The totally open-ended nature of the problem means the students must perform research to fully understand and define the problem, identify the important parameters, and learn to deal with uncertainty. The overwhelming size of the problem means the students must work as an integrated team to prioritize their tasks and delegate responsibilities so they can complete, document, and write up their tasks in a comprehensive report within a very strict deadline. The Challenge gives students the opportunity to show off what they have learned and mastered, and provides a reason and rationale to further their education."

Richard Eng, Teacher-Coach, High Technology High School, Lincroft, New Jersey
2008 M³ Challenge Champions (Summa Cum Laude Team Prize)

"[At this year's] graduation, our valedictorian was Brian Kutsop [2010 Sixth Place Winner]. His message was about having passion for whatever you do. Brian devoted about 20% of his talk to the M³ Challenge and to his experience of NYC and corporate America [being on a top M³ team]. That just shows you how influential the entire experience is for these students and their coaches!"

Elaine Petsu, Teacher-Coach, Immaculata High School, Somerville, NJ
2010 M³ Challenge Sixth Place (First Honorable Mention Team Prize)

"This was a great experience for my students. They learned a lot about using math in the real world, but more importantly, they learned a lot about how to tackle a big project with a tight deadline and how to work well in a team."

Renee Koplon, Teacher-Coach, Ramaz Upper School, New York, New York
2010 M³ Challenge Participant

Student testimonials:

"I've never done a math competition that was open-ended and applied math to something real like the census. Most of the time it's math that nobody cares about; it's just sort of some abstract concept. The fact that this competition is at a high enough level that the winning paper was published really says something about the contest and also the level of competitors."

Jacob Hurwitz
Montgomery Blair High School,
Silver Spring, MD
2010 Champions: \$20,000

"I guess what I liked best was that instead of coming out in the end with a score, you had this 20-page paper. Then we could actually look back and see how much we accomplished, which is way more gratifying than just getting a score."

Cameron Musco
The Wheeler School,
Providence, RI
2008 Sixth Place: \$2,500

"Don't spend the entire 14 hours working on [the problem]; it's good to have a half hour break or something. I think that in business the same idea could be applied: maybe once a month they could put people in a room for a couple of hours and make them solve problems as opposed to giving them long deadlines; it helps people work together."

Nevin Raj
Hunterdon Central Regional High School,
Flemington, NJ
2008 Fifth Place: \$5,000

"Everyone from our principal to history teachers and science teachers have asked us about [the Challenge], and have been supporting us through this process, which plays into the interdisciplinary approach that Moody's has taken with this Challenge."

Mary Higgins,
Immaculata High School,
Somerville, NJ
2010 Sixth Place: \$2,500

