

**MEDIA ALERT**

**ENGINEERING MACHINE DESIGN CONTEST:  
WISCONSIN'S BRIGHTEST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS  
PRESENT THEIR DESIGNS FOR TRANSFORMING WATER TECHNOLOGY**

**Students Compete in Regional Competition at Milwaukee's Discovery World, March 14, 2025**

- WHAT:** STEM Forward proudly hosts the Wisconsin Regional Engineering Machine Design Contest (EMDC):
- The **Engineering Machine Design Contest** is an opportunity for teams of high school students to design and build a complex machine using everyday objects with the guidance of a coach. The completed machine will use multiple steps to complete a simple task.
  - Teams showcase and exhibit their machine at a regional contest sponsored by STEM Forward as they are scored on a Team Journal, Team Presentation, and Machine Design and Operation.
  - Each year's theme is chosen according to current topics and aligned to the National Academy of Engineering Grand Engineering Challenges. This year's theme has students advancing technology by transforming water technology with the 2025 "Current of Creativity" theme.
  - The top three advance to the Engineering Machine Design Championship at Waukesha County Technical College in Waukesha on April 25, 2025.
  - More at <https://www.stemforward.org/engineering-machine-design-contest>
- WHO:** Interviews with teams, teachers, judges & STEM Forward staff are available.  
Teams from schools located in Milwaukee, New Berlin, and beyond the metro area will be represented and STEM Professionals from local companies such as Milwaukee Tool, Generac, and CentroMotion serve as volunteer judges.
- WHEN:** **March 14, 2025, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM**  
**Best Time for Coverage: 10:30-Noon – Observe Judging and View Machines**  
2:30-3:00 – Awards Ceremony
- WHERE:** **Discovery World**  
Pavilion  
500 N Harbor Dr  
Milwaukee, WI 53202
- WHY:** EMDC students see engineering as directly influencing their lives – why math and science are relevant to their world – and make a hands-on connection between their education and their future.
- Each year, a competition theme is chosen to guide the machine's build and allow whimsical creativity to flourish. Students can explore science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) principles while having fun in a collaborative environment.
  - Creating awareness and connection to real-world challenges is essential for the Engineering Machine Design Contest. The program's objectives are to provide low-cost or affordable experiences for students, inspire an interest in engineering and related career pathways, and equip students with skills that will help prepare them for future careers.
  - They ARE amazing; see for yourself! *Note that all students and educators have signed the required media waivers to permit media to photograph participants.*

**We encourage you to do stand-up live with different teams throughout the morning of March 14**

**CONTACT: Onsite:**

- Theresa Wolf, STEM Forward Programs Manager: 414-510-5440 or [twolf@stemforward.org](mailto:twolf@stemforward.org)
- Rich Merkel, STEM Forward Executive Director: 414-331-2682 or [rmerkel@stemforward.org](mailto:rmerkel@stemforward.org)

- Maureen Haeger, STEM Forward Communications Manager: 414-322-1224 or [mhaeger@stemforward.org](mailto:mhaeger@stemforward.org)

**Minnesota State University EMDC Media Relations Contact:**

- Melissa Huppert: 507-508-2987 or [melissa.huppert@mnsu.edu](mailto:melissa.huppert@mnsu.edu)

**About STEM Forward**

*STEM Forward is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and metro Milwaukee's leading STEM education and outreach provider. STEM Forward's programs, events, and activities inspire local youth to pursue STEM careers and provide a pipeline of talent to businesses in southeastern Wisconsin. Learn more at [www.stemforward.org](http://www.stemforward.org).*