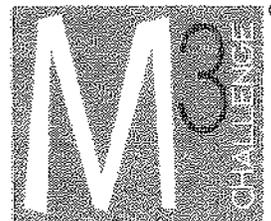


# Moody's Mega Math Challenge<sup>®</sup>

A contest for high school students

SIAM  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
3600 Market Street, 6th Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19104 USA  
M3Challenge@siam.org  
M3Challenge.siam.org



November 2014

To: High school math teachers and faculty

Re: **\$125,000 in scholarship prizes available in Moody's Mega Math Challenge**

Please encourage talented math students at your school to participate in Moody's Mega Math (M<sup>3</sup>) Challenge! This Internet-based applied math competition awards \$125,000 in scholarship prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 to teams of high school juniors and seniors. The Challenge takes place February 28 and March 1\* in 2015 and is free of registration and participation fees.

Please display the enclosed poster in a prominent, well-trafficked area at your school, and discuss the Challenge with your colleagues and motivated students in math classes and math clubs.

The competition, which is funded by The Moody's Foundation and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), requires students to solve an open-ended, realistic, math-modeling problem—in just 14 hours! With a focus on real-world issues, the Challenge spotlights applied math as a powerful problem-solving tool and helps students realize its value and importance. This year marks the tenth Challenge.

Each team is required to have a teacher-coach who serves as the team contact and oversees registration, but who is *not required to be with or near his or her team on Challenge day*. Teacher-coaches receive an appreciation gift and certificate for their efforts in forming and registering a team.

Visit the M<sup>3</sup> Challenge website at [M3Challenge.siam.org](http://M3Challenge.siam.org), where you will find useful information about the Challenge, including registration instructions, official rules and guidelines, a math modeling instructional handbook, sample problems, videos, archives of the previous nine contests including judge perspectives providing valuable insight, past winning papers, and more.

Thank you in advance for sharing information about the Challenge with your colleagues and students. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Michelle Montgomery  
M<sup>3</sup> Challenge Project Director  
montgomery@siam.org

**\*Students choose their Challenge day, either Saturday, February 28, or Sunday, March 1.**

See reverse for more information.

### **About the Challenge**

By asking students to solve complex, real-world issues with the power of mathematics, Moody's Mega Math (M<sup>3</sup>) Challenge reminds high schoolers that math is more than just formulas and solving for "x." The internet-based contest, for which registration and participation are free, gives eleventh and twelfth grade students 14 hours to solve an open-ended, applied math-modeling problem focused on a relevant issue. Teams are judged based on their solution papers, and top teams are required to present their findings to a panel of judges. Students competing in past Challenges have addressed everything from the most favorable regions in America to build high-speed rail lines to the unintended implications of using ethanol as biofuel. The M<sup>3</sup> Challenge, which is designed to motivate students to study and pursue careers in applied math, economics, and finance, is sponsored by The Moody's Foundation and organized by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

The next Challenge, which is open to high school students in 45 states and Washington, D.C., takes place February 28 and March 1, 2015, and will award \$125,000 in scholarship prizes. Registration opens November 2014 at [M3challenge.siam.org](http://M3challenge.siam.org). Complete rules, sample problems, resources, and archives of previous Challenges are also available there.

E-mail contact: [m3challenge@siam.org](mailto:m3challenge@siam.org).

### **About the Sponsor**

**The Moody's Foundation**, a charitable foundation established by Moody's Corporation, is committed to supporting education, in particular the study of mathematics, finance and economics. The Foundation also funds specific initiatives in the areas of global economic development, microfinance, civic, health and human services as well as arts and cultural programs. The Foundation supports programs located in select metropolitan areas in the United States, the United Kingdom and elsewhere around the world.

Moody's is an essential component of the global capital markets, providing credit ratings, research, tools and analysis that contribute to transparent and integrated financial markets. Moody's Corporation (NYSE: MCO) is the parent company of Moody's Investors Service, which provides credit ratings and research covering debt instruments and securities, and Moody's Analytics, which offers leading-edge software, advisory services and research for credit and economic analysis and financial risk management. The Corporation, which reported revenue of \$3.0 billion in 2013, employs approximately 8,400 people worldwide and maintains a presence in 31 countries. Further information is available at [www.moody's.com](http://www.moody's.com).

### **About the Organizer**

**The Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM)**, headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, is an international society of more than 14,000 individual members, including applied and computational mathematicians and computer scientists, as well as other scientists and engineers. Members are researchers, educators, students, and practitioners from 100 countries working in industry, government, laboratories, and academia. The Society, which also includes nearly 500 academic and corporate institutional members, serves and advances the disciplines of applied mathematics and computational science by publishing a variety of books and prestigious peer-reviewed research journals, by conducting conferences, and by hosting activity groups in various areas of mathematics. SIAM provides many opportunities for students including regional sections and student chapters. Further information is available at [www.siam.org](http://www.siam.org).

#### *Awards and Recognition:*

2010–2015 National Association of Secondary School Principals' National Advisory List of Student Contests & Activities

2009 ASAE Associations Advance America (AAA): Award of Excellence

2008 Excellence Award: Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy (CECP)