

Second Annual Maine Cyber Defense Competition (MECDC)

Presenting a new and exciting challenge for your students this spring – a Cyber Defense Challenge!

All High Schools in the State of Maine are Cordially Invited to Participate

What is it?

- The Maine Cyber Defense Competition (MECDC) program developed by faculty across the University of Maine System is dedicated to raising awareness and interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through fun and informal methods.
- The core of the program is the formation of MECDC Teams in high schools that provide avenues for students to gain access to learning materials from MECDC and experiment in an extra-curricular inquiry-based learning environment.
- The event allows students an opportunity to showcase the cyber defense and information technology knowledge they have gained during the early spring through competition and presentations.
- The preparation for this challenge takes place outside of the confines of coursework and classrooms.

Who Qualifies?

- The MECDC program is open to **all high school students in the state of Maine** interested in having fun with and gaining knowledge about STEM programs in the context of cyber defense and information technology.
- No prior knowledge or experience is required – just a desire to learn about technology.
- All schools are encouraged to participate in this inaugural year event.

How does it Work?

- Step 1** If your high school is interested in forming a MECDC Team and participating in the MECDC Competition, the first step is to **find a Team Advisor**. The advisor does NOT have to have any information technology or cyber defense knowledge. **Any teacher who agrees to be a MECDC Team Advisor and helps their team to reach the Final Round competition qualifies to receive a \$500 stipend.** (The individual needs only to be passionate about student learning.)*
- Step 2** Once a team advisor is identified, the next step is to start sharing the idea with students and **register your team by January 30, 2011**. Forms are available at our web site <http://mecdc.umfk.maine.edu>
- Step 3** Now that you have a team, visit the MECDC website to access resources, receive more information about preparing for the competition
- Step 4** **Let the Games Begin** (see tentatively timeline below).

*NOTE: Another \$500 stipend is available to an individual who is willing to serve as a local MECDC Team Mentor and helps their team to reach the Final Round competition. The mentor should have some information technology and/or cyber defense knowledge. Mentors are not required since educational resources and assistance are available online but they can make a substantial contribution to the learning process.

Timeline of Events:

- **October 22, 2010 – MECDC Overview Videoconference.** This videoconference is open to everyone and all are encouraged to attend, bring a friend and learn more about this exciting opportunity. The event will be broadcast to UMS centers across the state where you will be able to call in to get answers to your questions. Specific locations have been posted to the MECDC website under the Events page. The overview will showcase introductions of the key MECDC community members, an overview of last year's competition, the timeline for this year's competition, suggestions from last year's teams about how best to prepare a team, and more.
- **January 30, 2011 – Registration deadline.** Forms available online at <http://mecdc.umfk.maine.edu> Please note the earlier you register, the sooner you will have access to the learning materials in preparation for the competition.
- **Late February, 2011 – Practice Round** to test network connection and equipment. This does not require any travel as it is all done via the Internet.
- **Early March, 2011 – Qualifying Round.** This first competition serves to identify the top eight teams in the state who will be eligible to compete in the final round of competition. This does not require any travel as it is all done via the Internet.
- **March 19, 2011 – Finals Round.** This capstone event is for the top eight teams of students who advanced from the qualifying round. This 1-day culminating event will take place at a soon to be announced central location where the top team will be named Maine Cyber Defense High School Team of the Year and all competition participants will be recognized for their accomplishments.

Where can I learn more?

- Visit <http://mecdc.umfk.maine.edu> to view the MECDC Overview
- Contact any of the following MECDC representatives:

Dr. Raymond Albert
Director of the MECDC
Professor of Computer Science
University of Maine at Fort Kent
ralbert@maine.edu or (207) 834-7696

Mark Goodridge
Asst. Prof. of Computer Science
University of Maine at Augusta
mark.goodridge@maine.edu

Dr. George Markowsky
Prof. of Computer Science
University of Maine
markov@umcs.maine.edu

JoAnne Wallingford
Assc. Prof. of Business/MIS
University of Maine at Presque Isle
joanne.wallingford@umpi.edu

If you are not the correct person to receive this information, please pass it on to the appropriate math, computer and/or science teacher who may be interested. You can also let us know who that person is so we can add them on the mailing list.