

Milwaukee Regional Trig-Star Program 2009 Report

The national Trig-Star program is sponsored by NSPS and WSLs and is an annual contest held at high schools throughout the country. The program recognizes the best high school trigonometry students, while promoting careers in land surveying. The first Wisconsin Regional Trig-Star event was held Saturday, April 25th at the downtown campus of the Milwaukee Area Technical College. There were 51 students from 6 schools who participated in the following program at MATC.

- Sign-in with juice and donuts
- Introduction Presentation
- Trig-Star Exam
- Survey Equipment Displays
- Classroom Presentations
- Lunch
- Awards Presentation

Each of the 51 students received a certificate and Trig-Star T-shirt for participating. The students were eligible for prizes totaling \$775.

Program Development

As the coordinator for Wisconsin Trig-Star program, I was looking for a way to create a bridge between the students who participate in the program and the available 2 year programs at the technical colleges through-out Wisconsin. I approached WSLs member and MATC survey instructor, Dave Langhoff, RLS to see if MATC would be interested in hosting the program. After meeting with Dave and Civil Engineering Technology Instructional Chair, Terese Dressel, PE, the event was approved and scheduled for April 25th. The program we presented at MATC was modeled after a similar program presented each year in Minnesota. I wish to thank Fletcher Koos and Janele Fowlds who shared their knowledge, experiences and a multitude of documents which I modified for our program.

An invitation which included an introduction letter, prize list, and sign-up sheet was sent to 35 schools in the Milwaukee metro area in late February. This e-mail was sent to the guidance department and math department chairperson at each school. After 3 weeks and no response from any school, each of these schools was contacted by phone multiple times. It was a trying process attempting to spark interest in the program with these educators. Ultimately, we had 7 schools and 87 students signed up to participate.

This event could not have been presented without the generosity of the program sponsors. A letter was sent out to potential sponsors in early March requesting donations in support of the program. I would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors. Together we raised over \$2500 for the 2009 Milwaukee Regional Trig-Star Event.

Wisconsin Society of Land Surveyors Foundation
Milwaukee Area Technical College
Turning Point Systems Group
Seiler Instruments
Bonestroo, Inc.