

## **Winners of the WSPE 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Challenges**

1. **Essay Challenge** - Won by Nathan Shoenebeck, Peshtigo High School WI

### **What It Means to Be a Professional Engineer**

Choosing to study Mechanical Engineering is more than just choosing a career; it's a journey to do your best, be honest, and find better ways to do things. Being a good engineer isn't just about knowing a lot, but also knowing what's right. Since I was young, I've been fascinated by machines. Figuring out how they work has always been fun for me. Not only do I understand mechanics quickly, but I also love teaching others about it. That's why I want to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Being a professional engineer means you always learn new things. In a world where technology is always changing, keeping up is necessary. Professional engineers keep learning by going to workshops, seeking more education, and doing activities that help them get better at what they do. However, it's not just about personal growth. It's also about helping society. Engineers are crucial in solving big problems, such as making things that last and finding clean ways to use energy. Being a professional engineer is about doing things right, always learning, and making the world a better place. It's not just about what you know, but how you use your knowledge to do things efficiently and care for the world around you. Beyond the technical and ethical aspects, becoming a professional engineer is about becoming a part of a community that shares the same passion for innovation and to make things better. It involves collaborating with fellow engineers, learning from their experiences, and contributing to a collective pool of knowledge. The challenges and problem-solving nature of engineering create an environment where every project is an opportunity to grow, learn, and make a meaningful impact. This collaboration and the continuous pursuit of improvement are the driving forces that make being a professional engineer a fulfilling and evolving journey. These are just a few of the traits I hope to reflect when I become a professional engineer.

2. **Video Challenge** – Won by Adam Swedlund, D.C. Everest High School

You Tube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9or8XSQWLts>

3. **MATHCOUNTS Challenge** – Won by: Eagle School of Madison WI  
Mathletes: Bryant Yu & Augie Reeder  
Eagle School Coaches: Erica Munson & Jim Lene