



Wednesday, November 10, 2004

## McDonald named MATHCOUNTS Foundation chair

Gary McDonald, visiting professor in OU's Department of Mathematics and Statistics, recently was named chair of the MATHCOUNTS Foundation board of directors.

An active member of the board for the past 12 years, McDonald assumed his new role on Aug. 1. He also has served as Countdown Round moderator at the national competition since 2002 and is particularly interested in the important role MATHCOUNTS plays in preparing students to enter the workforce.

"As technology impacts more and more aspects of society, strong math skills become a necessity for anyone wishing to advance in a career," McDonald said. "MATHCOUNTS provides Mathletes® with a strong math foundation and the desire to continue developing these important skills."

McDonald received a B.A. degree from St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona, M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in mathematical statistics from Purdue University, and a Doctor of Science honoris causa from Purdue University.

He retired from the General Motors Research and Development Center in 2002 and is a fellow of the American Statistical Association, the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and American Association for the Advancement of Science.

A national math enrichment, coaching and competition program, MATHCOUNTS heightens student interest in mathematics by making math achievement as challenging, exciting and prestigious as a school sport.

Annually, 6,000 schools from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and State Department and Department of Defense schools worldwide select students to participate in the competition series (school, local, state and national). At all levels, MATHCOUNTS challenges students' math skills, develops their self-confidence and rewards them for their achievements.

Since MATHCOUNTS began in 1983, more than 6 million students have participated. The program has received two White House citations as an outstanding private sector initiative, been recognized in White House ceremonies by every president over the past 20 years and featured in two ESPN TV programs.

MATHCOUNTS relies upon more than 17,000 volunteers and financial contributions from corporate/individual supporters to run the program. Local and state competitions are coordinated through the leadership of state and local chapters of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

For more information on the program, visit the [MATHCOUNTS](#) Web site.

### SUMMARY

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