



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN IN CHARGE
FOUNDATION, INC.

NSBE Convention

The National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) is one of the largest student-governed organizations based in the United States. Founded in 1975, NSBE supports and promotes the aspirations of collegiate and pre-collegiate students in engineering and technology. Its motto is: *To increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers, scientists, and mathematicians who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.*

YMWIC Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are supplemental programs and activities for our Scholars. SIGs are affiliated with professional organizations and the interests of the Scholar. The YMWIC MATHCOUNTS SIG was formed at the beginning of February, 2023, led by STEM Educator Wanda Allaire, whose goal is, “To cultivate these Scholars' love and knack for math and challenge them with a competition.” We are fortunate to have had a former winning team in the MATHCOUNTS Competition that earned 3rd Place! To continue the winning tradition, we’re encouraging middle school Scholars to join us in the MATHCOUNTS SIG to strengthen their math skills and have fun with game-based activities. Come out; join in the fun!



All five Mathletes (Tisya Dinesh, Nyla Dukes, Vaughn Jefferson, and Jerelyn Munoz-Silva) and an alternate team member (Jonathan Thomas) all worked diligently to prepare for participation in the MATHCOUNTS Competition at the National Society of Black Engineers 49th Annual Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. They attended the MATHCOUNTS SIG at YMWIC headquarters on Saturdays and Zoom on Mondays in February and March. They worked hard and had fun with exploring new approaches to and applications of the math they already mastered in school.

The Mathletes' efforts culminated in a trip for the four primary team members to the NSBE Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, along with Mr. Roberts and chaperones, to partake in a MATHCOUNTS Competition against other teams (about ten) from across the United States. MATHCOUNTS is a national organization with the mission to provide engaging math programs to middle school students of all ability levels, to build confidence and improve attitudes about math and



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problem solving. There was a written section where the YMWIC Mathletes worked well as a team to answer math problems in a set amount of time. The Team did not place in this section but competed in the next one where they had a minute to buzz in to answer and get the best of three questions against the other teams. Our YMWIC Team fared well and went three rounds, only to be defeated by the team that ended up taking first place overall. Kudos to Tisya, Nyla, Vaughn, and Jerelyn for their efforts!



Since YMWIC is a Charter NSBE Jr Member giving Scholars access to a national level of activities, the YMWIC Mathletes were part of the NSBE Jr Division of the Conference. As such, our Team had the opportunity to engage in activities that immersed them into the NSBE culture, to partake in hands-on science workshops, and observe other NSBE Jr competitions (robotics, science project presentations).



In conclusion, Ms. Allaire adds, “Aside from the Convention and Competition, our Mathletes also had fun tasting Kansas City BBQ and walking to the KC Power & Light District. Most of all, we enjoyed each other’s company, playing card games, solving riddles, watching movies, etc. in our free time. It was a great trip, and we were blessed to be accompanied by two parents (Nyla's stepmom, Marshall Magness, and Tisya's dad, Jayachandran Dinesh).” According to Mr. Roberts, we plan on continuing the MATHCOUNTS SIG at YMWIC Headquarters on Saturdays at 9:00AM as a Math

Club open to any middle school Scholar with an interest in math for the remainder of this academic year (to the beginning of May). We will review MATHCOUNTS concepts and make it fun and exciting by including math games.” Join us! Sharpen your math skills. Maybe you will be selected to participate in next year’s MATHCOUNTS Competition in Orlando, Florida!