

Six UPEI Engineering Student Teams Qualify for Canadian Engineering Competition in Calgary



Eleven UPEI Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering (FSDE) teams, composed of 41 students, competed at the 2024 Atlantic Engineering Competition (AEC) hosted this past weekend in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The competition was hosted at University of New Brunswick through the Atlantic Council of Engineering Students from January 19-21, 2024.

The AEC is an annual student-run initiative that began in 1983 and has since grown to become one of the largest and highly anticipated engineering competitions in Canada. AEC 2023 brought together over 200 of the brightest engineering students from nine universities and 13 societies across Atlantic Canada.

The top two teams in each category will represent the Atlantic region at the highly selective Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC) in Calgary, Alberta, from March 1-4 where they will pit their skills against winners from competitions across Canada hosted by their regional counterparts.

The three-day event provides a setting for students to develop meaningful relationships with their peers while demonstrating their engineering skills in a competitive environment. Students in teams of one to six compete in one of eight competitions designed to test their design, problem-solving, and communication skills—key qualities of a successful and well-rounded engineer.

Teams can participate in one of eight categories: Junior Design, Senior Design, Innovative Design, Engineering Consulting, Parliamentary Debate, Re-engineering, Programming, and Engineering Communication. Each competition category challenges its participants to expand their frame of reference and to identify solutions to problems experienced by the engineering profession. Here, students also get the opportunity to engage with industry leaders, and national and global companies from a variety of disciplines. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to showcase their skills and talents, potentially landing a job offer.

Six teams from UPEI will move on to the CEC in Calgary – more than any other university in Atlantic Canada, and likely the highest number of teams of any institution that will attend CEC from across Canada this year. A list of the successful teams can be viewed on the following page.



UPEI had the following teams place in their respective categories:

- **1st place, Innovative Design:** Aaron McCloskey, Spencer Blacchiere, Sophie Hayes, Ben McQuaid, Maddy Cronin, and Brett McQuaid
- **2nd place, Innovative Design:** Richard Hetherington, Morgan McLean, Elijah Dodd, Luke Jennings
- **2nd place, Senior Design:** Luke McCarvill, Matthew Dreise, Jason Nieuwhof, Elliott Fraser
- **2nd place, Parliamentary Debate:** Adiel Ngabo Rutabana, Lilly O’Rielly
- **2nd place, Re-engineering:** Berry Genge, Zachery Pendleton
- **2nd place, Engineering Consulting:** Victoria Keefe, Ellen O’Riell, Basil Nagy, and Aly Abdelhalim

One UPEI Junior Design team, where the task was to design a popsicle stick bridge, was able to test, simulate, and construct a bridge that was able to withstand over 260 pounds; the highest in the competition. Unfortunately, the team did not qualify for the CEC, but received very positive feedback and was praised by judges and sponsors. This Junior Design was composed of second-year students Jimmy Hulton, Abby Chapman, Ethan Arsenaault-Saunders, and Yuvi Singh Gill (a picture of their team is shown below).

The UPEI Engineering Society would also like to extend a special thank you to the Alumni Association for their generous support in helping to offset student costs associated with AEC. Their support, in tandem with funding from the Faculty of Sustainable Design Engineering, made the event more accessible for students, enabling them to participate in the valuable experiences and networking opportunities that the event entailed.



For more information about the UPEI Engineering Student Society and its activities, please reach out at engnsociety@upei.ca.

