Hello All MESA USA Teacher Advisors-

Thank you for registering for 2021 MESA USA. I am in the process of readying final materials but wanted to give you some updates. Also, Colorado MESA teams will be joining our high school event as CO MESA is a new program and we are excited to have them participate with us. Grading is separate so winners will be identified from New Mexico and Colorado. ***A 2nd email will follow to all Colorado MESA teams with instructions on how to finalize your registrations.*** Please respond to that email as directed. Other tips/reminders as we prepare for MESA USA are as follows:

1.) Based on the number of teams that submitted the daily schedules will change slightly. By early next week, I will send a detailed agenda with your assigned team time(s).
2.) The day of your event, if possible, I would suggest taking a sub day as allowed with your MESA MOU. This will allow you to have dedicated time to respond to your competing students. Even though they are competing on their own, you are still the one to ensure they are virtually where they need to be and will be their POC throughout the day.
3.) On the agenda, it lists 8AM for advisors to meet with students. Please use this time to make sure students are ready to go with a team meeting. At this time, you can also determine if alternates need to be used. Other day of event suggestions:
    a. Create a virtual space/hang out room where students can contact you if they need something or unsure of where/how to log in if you will not be in physical contact with your students.
    b. Ensure that competing students are in a quiet workspace and have access to reliable internet as much as able. Example: if their home internet is not great, get approval if possible for them to use a school facility given distance requirements. This will take advance planning.
    c. If you are back in person, students still need to compete their event virtually as instructed and students should log in separately for the judges to be able to interact with the team best. Audio is not great with one log in for multiple students in a larger room.

Here are some competition logistics that may be helpful:
- Design Brief-This is submitted in advance and will be graded in advance. Nothing is needed the day of for this event.
- Academic Poster- This is submitted in advance and will be graded in advance. Nothing is needed the day of for this event unless you want to use as part of your technical interview.
    o Academic Posters will be shown on our awards day for a people's choice vote along with the team pitch via a password protected website page on www.nmmesa.org. More information on this will come later.
- Prototype Pitch-
    o Prepare your pitch with each student logging in independently, not a group room style. This will have a "Brady Bunch" tiled zoom look if not familiar.
    o The team will have screen sharing capabilities and can navigate through their presentation as desired. A team member will need to know how to navigate through their presentation, not you as the teacher.
    o The screen will show all on your end so if using powerpoint, prezi, etc the capabilities need to be on the computer the student is using. All students should have access to camera/microphone.

- o Pitches will be closed to the public except for you as the teacher if they want you there. You will not be allowed to interact or share screen and be prepared to be on camera also if you want to log in.
  - o Pitches will be recorded and shown on our awards day for a people's choice vote along with their submitted academic poster via a password protected website page on www.nmmesa.org. More information on this will come later.
- Technical Interview-
  - o Prepare your interview with each student logging in independently, not a group room style. This will have a "Brady Bunch" tiled zoom look if not familiar.
  - o The team will have screen sharing capabilities. You are reminded that this presentation is DIFFERENT than the pitch and the grading rubrics are very different. This event does not allow an electronic presentation (powerpoint, prezi, etc). But, you can show your poster and/or your engineering notebook if it is digital like you would be able to in a "live" interview.
  - o The screen will show all on your end so anything shown needs to be on the computer the student is using. All students should have access to camera/microphone.
  - o Technical Interviews will be closed to the public INCLUDING you.
  - o Interviews will be recorded for internal use, but not shared or shown as this is a closed event.

In registration, it asked for student email. Information on zoom invites, etc will be sent to all students direct as well as to you. Please ensure that each student has a unique email (not yours) in the event communication needs to be direct to each student.

Technical Requirements: All "live" events will be via zoom. Ensure that devices students are using have this capability. Zoom also has an app for use on phone and/or tablet. However, whomever is sharing should be on a computer. I would HIGHLY suggest practicing in the Zoom format in advance of the event. You can set up a free zoom account to practice and you can test zoom connectivity here: https://zoom.us/test If you need help with this your regional coordinator can also assist with setting up practice session(s) as desired as all NM MESA Staff have zoom capabilities.
As always, if you have any questions on anything in this email, please reach out to ensure that you are prepared and ready for our MESA USA events.

If you have any questions on anything, please reach out!

Anita A. Gonzales, CMP
NM MESA Statewide Program Coordinator/Interim Deputy Director
Teacher Education Center #101
New Mexico Highlands University
Las Vegas, NM 87701
O: 505-454-3027
C: 505-718-9517
F: 877-464-6642
anita@nmmesa.org