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## STATEWIDE OFFICE

To: All Arizona MESA Advisors  
From: Rudy B. McCormick III, Executive Director  
Date: September 16, 2024  
Subj: Student Expectations and Mediation Process

The purpose of MESA Day is to provide students with an opportunity to utilize the knowledge that they have learned through their membership in our program. We hope that the activities that you have integrated into your program meetings, combined with the events coordinated by the regional centers have prepared our participants for a challenging and fun day of competition.

In order to have a successful MESA Day, the assistance of all advisors is required. It is extremely important that your students understand the following:

- Students should attend with the intention to have fun, engage, and support all students.
- Judges have authority to make all decisions regarding the competitions.
- Decisions made by the judges are final and may not be questioned.
- Once a final decision is rendered, a student who attempts to appeal or exhibits uncivil behavior about a decision, will be immediately disqualified from the event and other competitions for which they may be registered.
- Complaints may not be investigated nor will a ruling be changed once MESA Day is complete.

There will be situations where students have questions about their engineering/science designs that are related to the judging process. This is a wonderful opportunity for learning to occur and if approached appropriately, the judges will be asked to spend time with the students for discussion and design recommendations. In these cases, students should follow the guidelines below.

- Discussion and design questions should occur immediately after the design testing or presentation. Students should understand that judges may have other responsibilities that may limit their meeting time.
- Only the student competitor(s) can approach the judge for questions and feedback. Parents, other students, and MESA advisors should allow the student competitor(s) and judge(s) to conduct their discussion with as little interruption as possible.

An ardent effort was made to ensure that the competition instructions are complete, clear, and indisputable. Our students will spend many hours preparing for MESA Day, and they take this capstone event seriously. Your assistance helping our students understand the purpose of MESA, the “spirit of competition,” and the policies listed above is appreciated. It is also important to remind students that the judges are volunteers, and we want them to have a positive experience working with Arizona MESA.

If you have questions or need clarification about this policy, please contact your regional center coordinator or myself. On behalf of Arizona MESA, thank you for your contributions to MESA and the students we serve. We look forward to seeing you in May!