On Monday evening, May 15—having visited the Kennedy Space Center the day before—the 244 students at the 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition watched a live broadcast of the Falcon 9 rocket launch alongside their teachers and families. When the countdown reached 10 seconds, the ballroom bustled with excitement as everyone shouted each number leading to the launch.

Earlier that day, those same people rallied behind Mathletes at a different countdown, as the 12 students with the highest scores at the National Competition competed head-to-head in a Countdown Round to crown our National Champion.

These moments were special not just because of the achievements we welcomed, but because of what will follow. When we count down on New Year’s Eve, for example, we’re celebrating the potential of the year that awaits us, not just the year about to end. These moments counting down bring us together. They give us hope for the future.

The same is true for the incredible students we serve. Their achievements today are not just the culmination of their year in our programs; they are the best chance we have for a better tomorrow. This makes the work we do at MATHCOUNTS meaningful—and all the more important.

With that in mind, we decided to make this year’s annual report a sort of countdown to our next program year. Starting with 12, we’re taking the opportunity to reflect on our impact as we ring in 2017-2018:

Just as our students cheered while counting down to that rocket launch in May, all of us at MATHCOUNTS will continue cheering on our Mathletes—not just for their accomplishments, but for their infinite potential.

We talk a lot about helping students find their path to math. For us, MATHCOUNTS is not the end goal of that journey. It’s the launch.
The MATHCOUNTS Competition Series builds critical thinking and problem-solving skills, while making math fun and exciting for students. Created in 1983, the Competition Series reaches more than 100,000 students each year in all 50 U.S. states, plus territories.

Teachers and volunteers began coaching Mathletes in the fall, using the 2016-2017 MATHCOUNTS School Handbook, which was also provided online for free to every middle school in the country. After practicing with their team members and coaches, students participated in school competitions in December 2016 and January 2017. The top students from each school advanced to chapter competitions in February, and then state competitions in March. The four Mathletes with the highest scores at each of the 56 state-level competitions earned an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition, which took place in May.

The 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition returned to Florida for the fifth time in Competition Series history. Mathletes representing all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Department of Defense and State Department—224 students in all—competed at the event, which took place at the Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Hotel.

Students took the Written Competition on Sunday, May 14, then the 12 students with the highest individual scores earned the right to compete in the Countdown Round the next morning. Following a series of tense, thrilling one-on-one matchups, Luke Robitaille, a seventh-grade homeschooled student from Euless, Texas, won the 2017 National Champion title and the $20,000 Donald G. Weinert College Scholarship. Robitaille, who came in second at last year’s National Competition, also won this year’s Written Competition.

The Texas team, with Robitaille, Andrew Cai, Justin Xiao and Jeremy Zhou won the 2017 Team Competition for the second year in a row. Texas is the fifth state in MATHCOUNTS history to win all individual and team awards—joining Kansas in 1993, Pennsylvania in 1996, Illinois in 2004 and Massachusetts in 2013.
A total of 11 students won scholarships from the MATHCOUNTS Foundation this year: six Competition Series students, four Math Video Challenge students and one alumna, Kaylee de Soto, who was awarded the 2017 MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship.

Established in 2013, the MATHCOUNTS Alumni Scholarship is a $3,000 award presented to an alumnus whose time in MATHCOUNTS had a profound impact on his/her academic and professional endeavors and aspirations. To date, more than 600 alumni have applied for this college scholarship—sharing about their time as Mathletes, coaches, volunteers and leaders in their community—and 2017 had the largest number of alumni finalists so far.

Kaylee de Soto was a chapter and state competitor in the MATHCOUNTS Competition Series, as well as a participant in the National Math Club at her middle school in Pinecrest, Florida. After her time in MATHCOUNTS, she went on to become president of her high school’s Mu Alpha Theta Club and led a student-run tutoring company, Tutoring for Tomorrow, which raised funds for extracurricular activities in her community. De Soto participated in the prestigious MITES program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which she credits with inspiring her to major in mathematics and physics in college.

De Soto also served as a volunteer MATHCOUNTS coach for two different schools in her area, leading one to a top-10 finish at the chapter level. She described her time mentoring her Mathletes as “life-changing,” explaining that she realized she “had helped form a true team, whose friendship extended far beyond math problems. All these students, who were so withdrawn initially, who had become accustomed to hiding in the back of their classes, who had let their accomplishments define their worth, had found confidence in each other. Just being able to help create something that strong was nothing short of humbling.” De Soto will attend MIT in the fall.

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The National Math Club gives students the opportunity to engage in math in a social, non-competitive setting through fun games and collaborative activities. Created in 2007, the National Math Club has seen a record number of registrations in its 10th year, with approximately 3,500 clubs participating nationwide.

Club leaders registered for free throughout the year and received numerous materials and resources, including the 2016-2017 Club Activity Book, which included 9 fun, creative math activities. Active clubs earned additional prizes and recognition. More than 300 Silver Level clubs, which achieved a high level of sustained participation, received a trophy, student certificates and entry into drawings for $250 gift cards. Of these clubs, 164 Gold Level clubs completed a challenging team project, earning a trophy, banner, student certificates and entry into drawings for $500 gift cards.

One Gold Level club, Southwestern Heights Junior High School in Kismet, Kansas, won the Grand Prize drawing: a $500 gift card plus an all-expenses-paid trip for four students and the club leader to attend the 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition as honored guests.
The Math Video Challenge helps students develop their math and problem-solving skills, while at the same time cultivating 21st century skills like communication, collaboration, creativity and technology savvy. Created in 2011, the Math Video Challenge has provided unique opportunities for students to apply math imaginatively and connect it to real-life scenarios.

Student filmmakers worked in teams of four throughout the fall and winter to create an original math video that explained the solution to a problem from the 2016-2017 Math Video Challenge Playbook and show a real-world application of the math used in the problem. After general public voting from mid-February through mid-March 2017, the 100 videos with the most votes advanced to the judging rounds. Twenty semifinalists, and then four finalists, were determined by a panel of 8 experts in math, technology and communications.

The 16 students who created the finalist videos earned an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2017 Raytheon MATHCOUNTS National Competition, where they presented their work to the 224 Mathletes competing in the Competition Series finals, who then voted to decide the winner. This year, “The Ladder Challenge” by QUAD SQUAD won first place, with students Sydney Dinkins, Kamyah Hugee, Jalelah Johnson and Keaton Tespas Bucciero—all students in grade 7 from the Atlanta area. This is the first time in the 6-year history of the Math Video Challenge that seventh-grade students won the contest.

The Grade Level of this Year’s Math Video Challenge Winners

2017 Finalist Videos

“A Goldfish Fanta-sea” by Fintastic Four, California
Nicole Augusta, Riley Blaugrund, Skylar Higgins and Sophia Summerell;
Maria Higgins, Team Advisor

A student struggling with a math problem gets help from her friends. Using stop-motion animation with Goldfish® crackers and their combinatorics skills, the four friends solve the problem.

“Fighting a Zombie Apocalypse” by MATHCOUNTS Army, North Carolina
Sashank Ganapathiraju, Pranav Kosuri, Srijan Oduru and Navish Shrinumala; Kovvalya Ganapathiraju, Team Advisor

Four military officers are given 13 days to stop a zombie invasion. The officers use proportional reasoning and algebra to figure out the number of soldiers needed to prevent a zombie apocalypse.

“Math vs. Robbers” by Real Cops, Real Math, Virginia
Jackie Carter, Cara Peacock, Lauren Schenack and Alyssa Sklar; Amy Faires, Team Advisor

Two bank robbers are on the loose heading for the state border, and two seasoned cops must chase them down. The cops use geometry to reach the state border before the robbers and save the day.
To provide more support and resources to students and educators in underserved communities, MATHCOUNTS provided a total of seven workshops for teachers in five cities this year. More than 200 educators in Chicago, Baltimore, Lexington, VA, Quantico, VA and Trotwood, OH participated in training sessions about the National Math Club, Competition Series and Math Video Challenge, plus received free materials to implement the programs in their schools.

MATHCOUNTS also conducted four outreach activities for students and their families this year. Continuing its partnership with the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), MATHCOUNTS provided curriculum materials and hosted a math competition for students working with NSBE volunteer mentors. In addition, MATHCOUNTS national staff conducted after-school math clubs at Boys and Girls Clubs in the Washington, DC area, a family event in Baltimore as part of the Maryland STEM Festival and a math night for military families in Quantico, VA.

Funding from the U.S. Department of Defense supported MATHCOUNTS’ efforts to continue to prioritize outreach to students and educators. In the coming years MATHCOUNTS will continue to expand their outreach initiatives, which have been well-received by participating educators, students and their families. In fact, on a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent), teachers gave an average score of 4.93 for the preparation and presentation of material in this year’s workshops. In the coming years MATHCOUNTS will continue to prioritize outreach to students and educators in underserved communities.

MATHCOUNTS partnered with Art of Problem Solving and the University of Oklahoma (OU) to create the online course, Competition Math for Middle School, to help educators looking to start or improve their coaching in the Competition Series. In response to positive feedback and high demand, another summer session was offered from June-August 2017. Created in 2015, more than 350 coaches have taken one of three courses offered so far. Competition Math features MATHCOUNTS problems and content created by Art of Problem Solving, as well as coaching strategies and suggestions from content experts and national-level coaches at MATHCOUNTS. The course is led by OU faculty, and coaches who complete the course receive one graduate credit from the university.

More than 600 volunteer coordinators, many of whom are engineers affiliated with the National Society of Professional Engineers, devote a significant amount of time and effort into conducting more than 500 local competitions across the nation. MATHCOUNTS created two new resources this year to help coordinators run their competitions.

Planning a chapter or state competition—with all that goes into making the event a success—can be a challenge. To help coordinators hone in on the most important parts of their event, MATHCOUNTS created the Coordinator Blueprint in the fall, which provides a breakdown of the essential parts of a chapter or state competition. MATHCOUNTS also provided a webinar introducing the Blueprint to help coordinators get the most out of this guide.

In January 2017, the MATHCOUNTS Online Scoring System (MOSS) was launched in time for use during this year’s chapter competitions. MOSS helps coordinators run a scoring room and, as an online program, offers greater flexibility along with enhanced scoring and reporting features. MATHCOUNTS will continue to improve and refine MOSS in future years to give coordinators an even more powerful and convenient tool.

The Competition Series simply would not be possible without the dedication of these 651 volunteers. All of us at MATHCOUNTS are deeply grateful for the hard work and support of all of our coordinators.

In 2016-2017, MATHCOUNTS provided 10 State + Chapter Coordinators with the Coordinator Blueprint, which provides a breakdown of the essential parts of a chapter or state competition. MATHCOUNTS also provided a webinar introducing the Blueprint to help coordinators get the most out of this guide. The Competition Series simply would not be possible without the dedication of these 651 volunteers. All of us at MATHCOUNTS are deeply grateful for the hard work and support of all of our coordinators.

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State Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Coordinators</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patricia Behrens, P.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diana Bitte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LuAnne Brickenstaff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Justin Bresnich, P.E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Brady</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jason Bricker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nancy Buescher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LaQuita Cemelowski</td>
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Marisa Egbert, P.E. | Abraham El |
| P.E. | Marcie Fisher |
| P.E. | Brenda Gajer, P.E. |
| Elizabeth Gayle, P.E. | Howard Gibbs, P.E. |
| P.E., F.NSPE | Becky Golden, P.E. |
| P.E. | Jake Greear, P.E. |
| P.E. | Michael Haid |
| P.E. | Michael Hardy, P.E. |
| P.E. | John Hayden, P.E. |
| P.E. | Doug Hendrickson, P.E. |
| P.E. | Wanda Howell |
| P.E. | Jill Huntley |
| P.E. | Cliff Iskra, P.E. |
| P.E., CFM | Katie Jameson |
| Garrett Johnston, P.E., CFM |
The Virgin Islands team members perform their cheer during the Written Competition.
**2016-2017 INDIVIDUAL DONORS Cont’d**

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- The Good Beginning
- Anita Govindjee
- Shanon Griffin
- Benjamin Grosz
- Jeffrey Grotte
- Thomas, Shirley
- and Tyler Hale
- Elliott Hamilton
- Weimin Han
- Michael Kardy
- Daniel Harm
- Michael Hatch
- Joe Hauber
- Nathan Hauke
- John Hendricks
- Kathryn Holfberg
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- Tai Hon
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- Vimala Iyer
- Joseph Janov
- Sunil Jha
- David Johnson
- Kera Johnson
- Anthony Jones
- Shai Joseph
- Olivia Justynski
- Leb Katz
- William Kendall
- Emma Kerwin
- Max Khavin
- Kelvin Kirby
- Scott Klingensmith
- Gloria Koshio
- Earl Krenz
- David Krenosfield
- Allison and Louis Kural
- Lesa Lane
- Timothy Layman
- Benjamin Leiby
- Charles Legge
- Lisa Ellis
- Westminster Math Team
- Gang Liu
- Michael Lo
- Ricardo Lopez
- Annette Lynch
- Patrick Malone
- Hermine and Summer
- Marshall
- Rebecca Mason
- Julie Mazenko
- Chris McCauley
- George McKough
- Bob McWilliams
- Miriam Melnick
- Edward Miller
- Valerie Mis
- Ken Monks
- James and Susan Morrell
- Thomas Mouch
- Meghan Murphy
- Daniel Myolkka
- Amanda Naar
- Mary Nash
- Cara Norton
- Geoffrey O’Brien
- Stephanie Oh
- Garrett Oleszewski
- Jeffrey and Janet
- O’Sullivan
- Daniel Oyedapo
- Adria Palinsky
- and Robbie Park
- Leon Pallasch
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- Bradley J. Paul
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- Benjamin Pernezny
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- Ana Quintero
- Bhakass Ray
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- Avara Reks
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- Kevin Yen
- Con and Elsheva Yian
- Danna Zambout
- Allen Zhang
- Kevin Zhang
- Ming Zhang
- Hong Zhao
- Jueren Zhou

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### FINANCIALS

**Audited Financials August 1, 2015 - July 31, 2016**

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<th><strong>EXPENSES</strong></th>
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<td>General and Administrative Expenses</td>
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<td><strong>Total Program Services Expenses</strong></td>
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---

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**General and Administrative**

- $103,783
- $103,783

**Funding**

- $242,389
- $242,389

**Total Support Services Expenses**

- $346,172
- $346,172

**Change in Net Assets**

- $121,402
- ($137,500)
- ($16,998)
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Amanda Naar
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