

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MEMO NO. 118-17

**DATE:** November 8, 2017

**TO:** CTE Administrators

**FROM:** Lolita B. Hall, Director  
Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education

**SUBJECT:** Real World Design Challenge

School divisions are encouraged to form teams for the Real World Design Challenge (RWDC) annual competition. The RWDC competition offers high school students, grades 9-12, the opportunity to acquire Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) skills that will prepare them for the high-demand, high-wage, and high-skill careers in Virginia. Student teams address a challenge that confronts our nation's leading industries by utilizing professional engineering software to develop and present their solutions.

The state [registration](#) deadline for RWDC teams is November 17, 2017. After state teams submit their challenge solutions in January 2018, the top state team will be selected to participate in the national challenge event on April 21, 2018.

Additional information about the RWDC, including rules, technical assistance, tutorials, videos, coach's guide, and other resources, may be found at [Link:](#)  
<http://www.realworlddesignchallenge.org/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Basham, Technology Education and Related Clusters Specialist at [cte@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:cte@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3119.

LBH/daw