

Tau Beta Pi Announces 2026 McDonald Mentor Matthew W. Priddy, Ph.D.

Knoxville, TN — Tau Beta Pi, The Engineering Honor Society, has named its 20th McDonald Mentor. Established in 2005 by the Association and Marion and Capers W. McDonald, NC G '74, the award recognizes excellence in engineering educators or professionals who consistently support the personal and professional development of their students and colleagues in industry, government, or service organizations.



Matthew Priddy, Ph.D., MS A '08, has been named the **2026 TBPi-McDonald Mentor**. He is an associate professor in the department of mechanical engineering at Mississippi State University (MSU) and director of the Computational Mechanics & Materials Laboratory research group. Dr. Priddy will receive \$1,000, a bronze engraved medallion, and a replica lapel pin. A \$1,000 grant will be presented to the Mississippi Alpha Chapter for nominating him.

He obtained civil engineering degrees (B.S. and M.S.) from MSU and a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Georgia Tech. Dr. Priddy joined MSU as a visiting professor in 2016, became an assistant professor in 2017, and was elevated to associate professor in 2023. The primary research focus of his lab is the advancement of computational solid mechanics for engineering materials used in multiple applications, including additive manufacturing, civil structures, and orthopedic implants.

It is unique for a group of Tau Bate alumni across multiple disciplines to agree on a statement of objectivity, but that is exactly what happened when five recent MS Alpha Chapter graduates put together Dr. Priddy's nomination packet. They all concur that he was one of the most impactful mentors and educators during their undergraduate careers. Dr. Priddy pursued a career in academia specifically to mentor students. The MS Alpha Chapter is lucky to have Dr. Priddy in a leadership role as he mentors all the students he comes across, not just the ones he teaches and that perform research under him. He embodies the definition of an advocate and mentor through tireless dedication to student growth, early-career development, and encouragement. His commitment and actions have left an indelible mark on the engineering community and across the entire MSU campus. Throughout Dr. Priddy's career, he's mentored 83 undergrad researchers, 22 master's students, and had four Ph.D. students graduate successfully. Dr. Priddy's dedication is evident having written 200+ letters of recommendation and many of his students receiving the most prestigious scholarships and awards in the country. Thanks to his guidance, students have also become industry leaders.

As a MS Alpha Chapter Advisor since 2018, Dr. Priddy regularly hosts grad school discussions, leads by example, and offers support to chapter officers while still letting them figure out how to effectively run a chapter. When discussing examples of Dr. Priddy's influence, a letter of recommendation stated that, "He is constantly using his influence and connections to help others navigate hard situations, find new opportunities, or grow in any other number of ways."

For pushing his mentees beyond their own limiting beliefs and influencing others to carry forward his approach to engineering practice, we honor Dr. Matthew Priddy as the **2026 TBPi-McDonald Mentor**.

Tau Beta Pi is The Engineering Honor Society, founded at Lehigh University in 1885. With 259 collegiate chapters and 52 active alumni chapters, it has initiated more than 657,000 members in its 141-year history and is the world's largest engineering society (see www.tbp.org). Contact Renea Lewis (r.lewis@tbp.org) for more details.