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Winners Announced for USF's Bridge-Building Competition

Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas Counties' middle, high school students compete

TAMPA, Fla. (February 24, 2012) – Winners are announced for University of South Florida's (USF) College of Engineering's 20th annual Bridge Design Competition, sponsored by Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA). Thirteen bridges from three high schools and four middle schools representing Hillsborough, Pinellas and Manatee Counties were submitted for competition in design and structural integrity.

The competition challenged students to design and build model bridges from balsawood and test their load capacities. Winners of the competition are listed below.

In the High School competition, first place went to Gaither High School in Tampa. Their bridge held 100.1 pounds. In the Middle School competition, Williams Middle Magnet (Tampa) took first place with a bridge that held 55.3 pounds.

Second and third place winners for high school were Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg with 90.4 pounds and Bayshore High School in Bradenton with 60.6 pounds. Middle School second and third place went to Steward Middle Magnet in Tampa with bridges that held 42 pounds and 27.9 pounds respectively.

In addition, Steward Middle Magnet also won the Efficiency Award. Their bridge held 785 times its weight.

Congratulations to all of the Teams!

USF's Bridge-Building Competition began as a student-run project to connect with the area's under-represented students. As a partner with USF, THEA seeks to support educational opportunities for and outreach to Tampa Bay students through its sponsorship of this event. For more information about the Competition, please contact Eva Fernandez at 813.974.9503 or ecfernan@usf.edu.

About Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority

Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) is a user-financed public agency led by a Board of local citizens. Operating with no tax dollars, THEA develops and owns toll highways, including Lee Roy Selmon Expressway, as well as non-tolled roads, including Brandon Parkway and Meridian Avenue. All tolls collected by THEA are reinvested into projects in Hillsborough County. For more information, please visit www.tampaxway.com.

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