



Civil Engineering Student Team Competes in in National Student Steel Bridge Competition

USF places 14th overall among 48 other universities.

Tampa, Fla. (June 3, 2011) – A team of USF civil engineering students qualified at the regional level and competed against 48 other U.S. universities in the 2011 Student Steel Bridge Competition held at Texas A&M University in May. The team placed 14th overall and eighth in the deflection category.

The USF team of Elizabeth Mitchell, Trent Liguori, Vince DePianta, Nathan Henderson, Joshua Bachman, Muhammad Naeem and Justin Bowen began preparing for this event last August when the rules were distributed. Each team constructs a steel bridge that is scored based on weight, deflection under a 2,500 pound load and construction time. The bridge is designed in fall semester and fabricated in the spring.

This year 201 teams competed at regional competitions, with 19 teams participating in the South East regional. USF placed among the top three at the regional level, making them eligible for the national competition.

The team was sponsored by Advantage Steel (a long-time sponsor that donates the materials), Tampa Bay Machining, the USF Machine Shop, the USF Society of Automotive Engineers (fabrication services, Tim Davis (sponsor and mentor), corporate sponsors: ASCE FL Section & West Coast Branch, USF Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, USF Undergraduate Research, HSA, AREHNA, and individual sponsors: Anthony Vieira, Gene Balter, Steve Zendegui and Skip Liguori.

The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.

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