



USF FWEA Student Design Team Takes First Place in Orlando

TAMPA, Fla (April 26, 2013) The University of South Florida Student Chapter of the Florida Water Environment Association (FWEA) took first place in the Student Design Competition held this past weekend in Orlando. Both the Wastewater team and the Environmental team took first prize in their respective divisions and will go on to represent Florida in the national competition at WEFTEC in Chicago in October.

The USF environmental team consisted of **Erin Morrison (PM), Caitlin Hoch, Josh Becker, Miki Skinner, and Brett French**. They investigated storm water improvements to alleviate nitrogen over-enrichment in the Booker Creek Watershed in St. Petersburg. The USF wastewater team consisted of **Nicole Smith (PM), Melissa Butcher, George Dick, Matthew Woodham and Margaret Cone**. They investigated potential uses for biogas produced from anaerobic digestion of biosolids at St. Pete's Southwest Water Reclamation Facility. A total of 11 Florida university teams participated from USF, UF, FSU/FAMU, UCF, FGCU, UNF and U Miami.

The teams were assisted on the environmental project by Carlos Frey, Dwight Wilson, Steve Leavitt and Charles Wise from the City of St. Petersburg. Juan Oquendo mentored the wastewater team. The West Coast Chapter of FWEA provides ongoing support of the USF student chapter and the design teams.

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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. The Carnegie Foundation also classifies USF as a community engaged university. 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.