Project Description:

- Teams of high school students, will research, identify, illustrate, design, construct, demonstrate, test and communicate a wind mitigation problem and solution; each high school will be allowed to enter one team; it is up to each teacher from each school to determine how many students will participate as a Team for this competition; however, on the day of the Challenge competition, only 4 students from the Team will be allowed to compete; less than 4 can compete, but not more; all other teammates, teachers and family will be welcomed to attend the Challenge and watch the competition.

- Students will prepare three components for the competition: a physical test, an oral presentation and a written technical paper.

- The objective for the 2015 WOW Challenge is to design a wind mitigation barrier that will provide the best wind mitigation for a Miami Beach hotel property. Imagine a six-story hotel situated along the beach, and between the hotel and the beach is an area that hotel management wants to be protected from wind off the Atlantic Ocean. The technical details will be described in the 2015 Physical Guidelines document and will be available on the WOW Challenge web page.

- An informational workshop on this year’s competition for teachers and students was recorded and the video is available in the video section on the WOW Challenge web page.

• Oral presentations should effectively communicate some scientific process and analysis involved with the development of the wind mitigation solution; oral presentations should also convey the benefits and values of the mitigation solution. The oral presentation details will be described in the 2015 Oral Guidelines document and found on the WOW Challenge web page.

• Written technical papers should include any scientific or mathematical analysis involved with the development of the wind mitigation solution and describe how wind mitigation is being addressed with their solution. The written technical paper details will be described in the 2015 Technical Paper Guidelines document and found on the WOW Challenge web page.

• Written technical papers are due electronically as a PDF document by Monday, May 18th at 12:00pm. Please e-mail your written paper to Erik Salna at esalna@fiu.edu.

• Oral presentations and physical tests will be conducted live at the FIU Engineering & Computing Center on Wednesday, May 20th, 2015.

• The 3 components of the competition will be judged and scored by a panel of experts.

• Dress Code for the May 20th competition: Teams should consider wearing appropriate professional business attire for the day of competition, especially for their oral presentations.

• Special prizes and awards will be presented to student Teams.

Judging:
• A panel of experts will judge each written technical paper, oral presentation and physical test.
• The physical test will be mainly judged on performance; some attention may also be given to aesthetics, marketability and practicality.

Qualification:
• Judges will verify that each mitigation solution is within the official physical guidelines before being tested.

Scoring:
• Judges will use a cumulative and weighted scoring point scale for the written technical paper (25%), oral presentation (25%) and physical test (50%).

Contact Person:
• Direct all questions and comments to Erik Salna at esalna@fiu.edu or 305-348-1146.