

FIU Diversity Action Grant Truss Structure Design Competition

Florida International University's ASME student chapter received a Diversity Action Grant. The grant was used to support FIU's Engineering Gala. Area middle and high school students were invited to FIU to participate in an ASME Design Competition during the gala. The competition consisted of the design and construction of a structure by teams of students. Tape, straws, jelly beans, string, and toothpicks were the only materials permitted in the structure design. Structures were judged by height, strength, and material use efficiency. Throughout the course of the project students were also quizzed on engineering topics and awarded prizes for correct answers. The goal of the program was to promote engineering to middle and high school students in a fun manner. This was possible with the help of the Diversity Action Grant. The funding was used to pay for construction materials, t-shirts, prizes, food, and certificates for participants.

Summary

Partnering Organizations:	Society of Automotive Engineers
Overall Attendance:	235
Girls:	93
Minorities:	202
Grant:	\$1500
Budget for Event:	\$1500

Responses

- Received great feedback from participating teachers and students
- Would improve upon competition next year by creating a fun middle and elementary school division and a more competitive high school division
- More timely arrival of the Diversity Action Grant would allow for more comprehensive program/activity planning