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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

## **WOW Challenge 2015: High school students test their engineering against hurricane winds**

**WHAT:** FIU's International Hurricane Research Center (IHRC) hosts the Wall of Wind Mitigation Challenge, a judged competition for South Florida high school students. Teams of high school students are challenged to develop an innovative mitigation concept and solution. The objective for the 2015 WOW Challenge is to design a wind barrier that will provide the best protection for a Miami Beach hotel.

**WHO:** Student teams have prepared three components for the competition: a physical test, an oral presentation and a written technical paper. The mitigation concepts will be tested in front of the Wall of Wind, with judges from The Weather Channel and CNN. This community education outreach project is sponsored by the Florida Division of Emergency Management.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 20, 2015

**9:30am – 11:30am:** Judging for Physical Tests at Wall of Wind

**10:00am – 12:00pm:** Judging for Oral Presentations in Room 2300 in Engineering Building

**12:45pm – 1:15pm:** Awards Ceremony on 2nd floor of Engineering Building, in Panther Pit Café Area

**WHERE:** FIU Engineering & Computing Center  
10555 West Flagler Street  
Miami, Florida 33174

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**About FIU:**

*Florida International University is recognized as a Carnegie engaged university. It is a public research university with [colleges and schools](#) that offers more than 180 [bachelor's, master's and doctoral](#) programs in fields such as engineering, international relations, architecture, law and medicine. As one of South Florida's anchor institutions, FIU contributes \$8.9 billion each year to the local economy. FIU is Worlds Ahead in finding solutions to the most challenging problems of our time. FIU emphasizes research as a major component of its mission. FIU has awarded over 200,000 degrees and enrolls more than 54,000 students in two campuses and three centers including FIU Downtown on Brickell, FIU@I-75, and the Miami Beach Urban Studios. FIU also supports artistic and cultural engagement through its three museums: the [Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum](#), the [Wolfsonian-FIU](#), and the [Jewish Museum of Florida-FIU](#). FIU is a member of [Conference USA](#) and has over 400 student-athletes participating in 18 sports. For more information about FIU, visit <http://www.fiu.edu/>*