

The cover features a dramatic sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds, with a bright sun low on the horizon casting a shimmering path of light across the water. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, oranges, and yellows.

**ASCE** FLORIDA

# e-newsletter

**February 2023**

## **A Message from the President**

**Dave Crombie, PE**

How is it February already? If you're like me, work has picked up tremendously and you're left wondering how the holidays came and went so fast! I am happy to report that the Florida Section continues to thrive, and our members are coming out to events around the state in droves. As you'll read below, the Section held its first-ever Student Development Conference in January where our presenters talked about things not necessarily taught in school – how to

negotiate your salary, what is appropriate to wear on interviews, how to set up a 401K, etc. We had 99 students in attendance representing 10 of our 11 student chapters from around the state, and the energy was tremendous between them and our sponsors. I want to personally thank Judy Nichols, Executive Director, and all of our Section and Branch leadership that participated to make this a highly successful event!

We quickly followed that with two in-person doubleheader PDH events at FDOT D7 in Tampa and FDOT D4 in Ft. Lauderdale, both with attendances higher than we anticipated – but in a good way.

Investing in our infrastructure is happening all around us. We have a group from the Florida Section who will be attending the ASCE Fly-In in March in Washington DC, and we look forward to hearing their feedback after meeting with our legislators.

In the meantime, we hope you will make plans to attend our annual conference, taking place July 13-14, 2023, back at the JW Marriott Grande Lakes in Orlando. I know that sponsorships, exhibitor tables and abstracts are still being accepted, so please reach out if any of that is of interest to you.



Six more weeks of winter will not slow us down!

Thank you for your continued involvement in ASCE!

Dave Crombie, PE  
2022-2023 President

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Registration opening March 1



## Student Development Conference

It was an idea that the Student Activities Committee (SAC) had been kicking around for a while - how can we give our student members information that they may not learn in their civil engineering classes? On a Friday last month in Orlando, the Section hosted an inaugural event - the Student Development Conference, with 99 students in attendance representing nearly all of the student chapters in the state. Ten sponsors made the day possible - see below.

Thank you to our speakers who presented:

- **The Life of a Project** - presented by Garit Poire, Turner Construction and Heath Jenkins, Avcon
- **FDOT Training Program** - presented by Andrew Newman, FDOT
- **Facing Challenges** - presented by Chris Sharek, Jacobs

- **Do's & Don'ts Fashion Show** - featuring Chris Sharek, Mike Olka, Madeline Batey, Garit Poire, Carlos Tijerino and Fiorella Asturizaga
- **Hiring Panel** - featuring all of our sponsors
- **Resolving Conflict with Diverse Backgrounds** - presented by Charmaine Emanuels, Chen Moore & Associates
- **Engineering Your Time** - presented by Madeline Batey, Chen Moore & Associates
- **Finance 101**- presented by Sam Bowyer, Morgan Stanley
- **Leadership** - presented by JW Hunter, Atkins
- **Best Practices for Interviewing & Negotiating** – presented by Albert Castro, BCC Engineering
- **Soft Skills** - Heath Jenkins, Avcom, Mike Olka, Lake County and Carlos Tijerino, EXP

The day couldn't have been made possible without the very generous support of our sponsors:



### Become A Top 10 FLASCE Student Scholarship Sponsor E. Bruce Lawson, PE, Chair - Scholarship Committee Chair

In 2017, the ASCE Florida Section awarded the first two endowed scholarships to undergraduate student Nicole Miller of the University of North Florida, and graduate student Trang Luong of the University of South Florida. Since that first year, 7 new scholarships have been added, and in 2022 a total of 9 scholarships were awarded.

Becoming a member of the top 10 FLASCE Student Scholarship Sponsors is a great way for a company, family or individual to celebrate a milestone or create a permanent memorial and is not as difficult as one may think. There are several ways to fund a new scholarship endowment in partnership with ASCE Florida Section and Florida Engineering Foundation. The most popular is using the 5-year funding period. Pending approval by the Board of

Directors, the Florida Section is offering a new \$1,500 annual scholarship fund. The scholarship endowment is \$7,000/year to fund the endowment with \$1,500 contribution each by ASCE and FEF the first year, and \$1,000 each by ASCE and FEF for years 2-5.

FLASCE will also work with a group to fund the scholarship such as with the Kathy J. Caldwell Women in Engineering where 14 individuals are funding the endowment.

To join the Top 10 contact [E. Bruce Lawson](#), Scholarship Chair at by email or 386-688-2864, or [Judy Nichols](#), Executive Director.



### FDOT Accelerates 20 Priority Projects with Moving Florida First Infrastructure Initiative

The Florida Department of Transportation is excited to share information regarding Governor DeSantis' **Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative** announcement and is thrilled to have his support in accelerating 20 major interstate and arterial roadway projects across the state over the next four years.

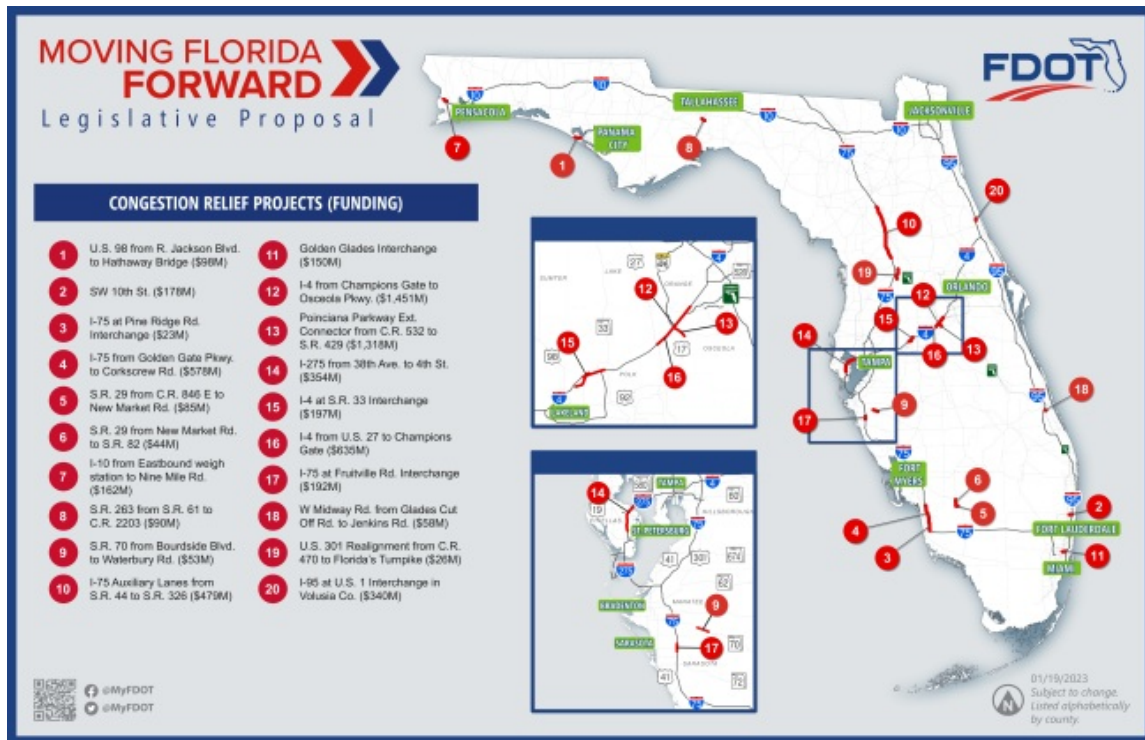
This historic proposal will infuse **\$7 billion into Florida's transportation infrastructure** using a combination of \$4 billion of General Revenue Surplus with FDOT's ability to leverage innovative financing tools, contracting, and proposed policies for the resulting \$3 billion over four years.

Florida continues to experience phenomenal growth in population and tourism. By accelerating these **20 priority projects**, which are production-ready projects endorsed by local communities, the department will be able to deliver critical infrastructure to **relieve congestion, facilitate trade, enhance safety, ensure resiliency, and promote economic growth**. These projects will be delivered on top of our existing, historic Work Program.

This is an incredible time for Florida's transportation.

- [Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative press release](#) [here](#).

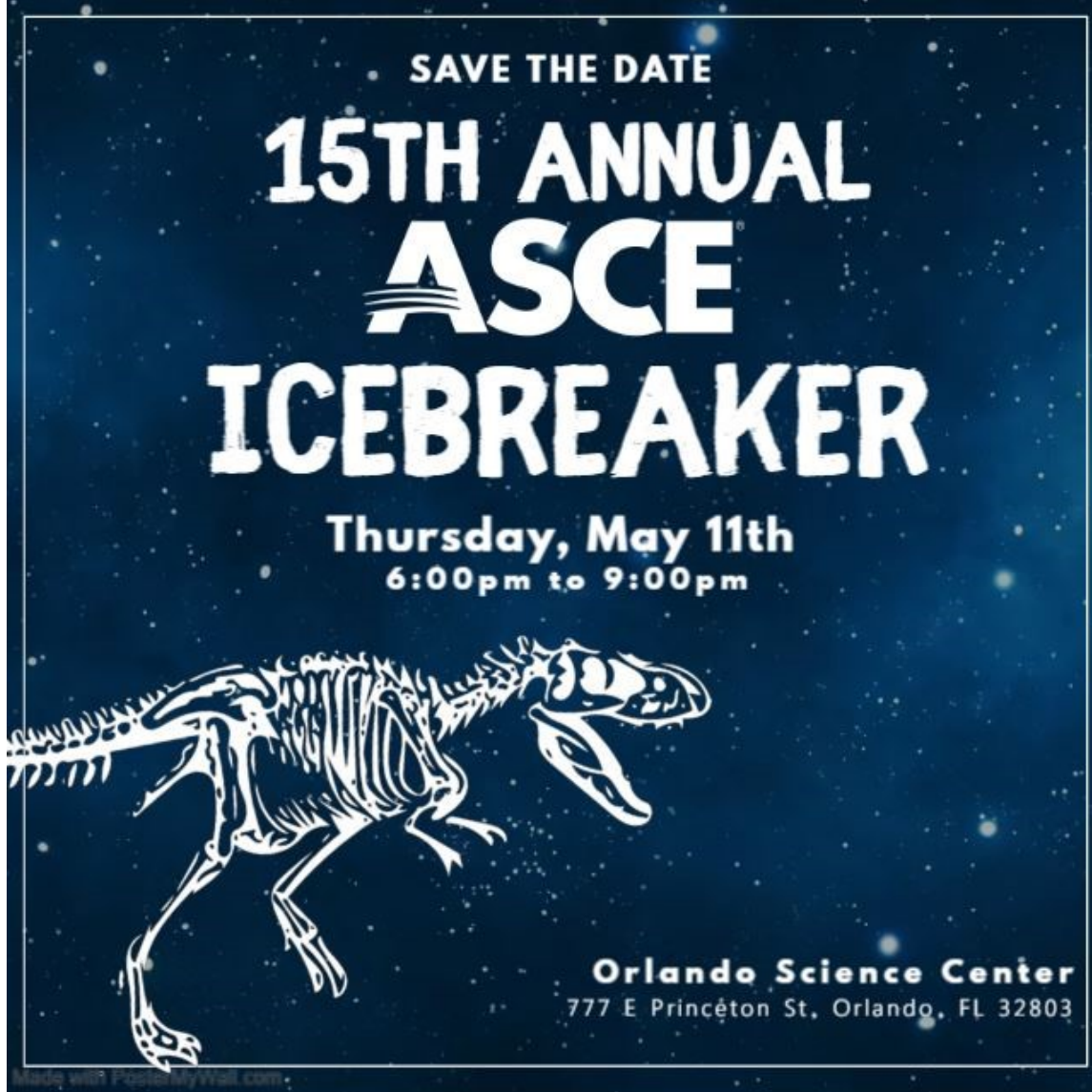
- **Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative Project Map** (below) that highlights the 20 priority projects included in this initiative.
- **Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative Highlight Video**, linked [here](#).



## Branch Highlights

### East Central Branch

ECB is hosting its 15th Annual Icebreaker event in May at the Orlando Science Center. Join more than 300 engineering professionals from around the Central Florida area for an evening of food, drinks, games, great company, and cool dinosaurs. Proceeds benefit engineering scholarships and education outreach. Interested in volunteering at the Icebreaker Contact [Alexis Perry](#) for more information. Volunteers will receive additional raffle tickets, an additional drink/game ticket, and a reduced ticket price! Sponsorship opportunities are available! We appreciate all of our sponsors and associated societies that make this such a great event year after year!



#### **Miami-Dade**

ASCE Miami-Dade Branch held their annual Field Day event this month and it was their biggest Field Day event yet, with more than 400 attendees and 21 Sponsors. Field Day– World Cup edition was a great success thanks to Valerie Coloma, this year's Field Day Chair and her Field Day Committee. Both ASCE President-Elect nominees were in attendance - and the Branch thanks Brett Phillips and Feniosky A. Peña-Mora for taking the time to promote the organization and be a part of one of the events.

Congratulations to the following teams for ranking from Champions to 4th place: Keith, Ardurra, Langan, and HBC, consecutively. Not only was this a great accomplishment for these companies, but also for both undergraduate and graduate students who received scholarships due to their feats in their academic studies. The scholarship winners of this year are as follows: Julia Batista, Yasmine Al Moghrabi and Vincent Roustit; all students from Florida International University. Students from the local universities are continuously making the Branch proud and have been involved in the Branch events while also volunteering at our Field Day to reach a common goal: expand the Miami-Dade Branch and our local civil engineering community.



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## ASCE Recognizes Florida Section Members



**Michael D. Dukes, Ph.D, PE, F.EWRI**

University of Florida  
**2023 Royce J. Tipton Award for work contributing to improving irrigation efficiency**  
awarded by ASCE EWRI





**Mathews J. Wakhungu**

University of South Florida

**2023 Wesley W. Horner Award for the paper, “Geospatial Vulnerability Framework for Identifying Water Infrastructure Inequalities**

awarded by ASCE EWRI



**Noha Abdel-Mottaleb, Ph.D.**

University of South Florida

**2023 Wesley W. Horner Award for the paper, “Geospatial Vulnerability Framework for Identifying Water Infrastructure Inequalities**

awarded by ASCE EWRI



**E. Christian Wells**

University of South Florida

**2023 Wesley W. Horner Award for the paper, “Geospatial Vulnerability Framework for Identifying Water Infrastructure Inequalities**

awarded by ASCE EWRI



**Qiong Zhang, PhD, EIT**

University of South Florida

**2023 Wesley W. Horner Award for the paper, “Geospatial Vulnerability Framework for Identifying Water Infrastructure Inequalities**

awarded by ASCE EWRI



**Haochen Li**

University of South Florida

**2023 Rudolph Hering Medal for the paper, “Benchmarking Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes Turbulence Models for Water Clarification Systems**

awarded by ASCE EWRI



**John Sansalone, Ph.D., PE**

University of Florida

**2023 Rudolph Hering Medal for the paper, “Benchmarking Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes Turbulence Models for Water Clarification Systems**

awarded by ASCE EWRI

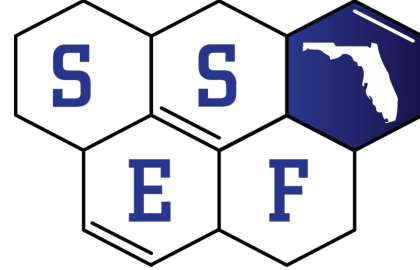
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## 67th State Science & Engineering Fair

More than 100 judges are still needed to interview the student finalists at the 67th State Science and Engineering Fair, taking place live and in-person on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland.

More than 250 judges are needed in 13 scientific disciplines for both Junior and Senior Sections. Judging is the single most

important event of the SSEF of Florida for finalists and, in the words of a recent judge, "Judging was one of the most personally challenging, educational and rewarding experiences I have had in some time. These are truly amazing people!" And from another, "I cannot emphasize enough what a fantastic experience this science fair is for students and judges alike."



By volunteering for only one day, you can play an important role in encouraging these students to become the future science and engineering leaders of tomorrow. Judging will take place at The RP Funding Center starting at **8:00 AM and lasting through**

**5:00 PM on Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023.**

Unfortunately, we are not able to support travel expenses, but we will provide parking and breakfast, breaks, and lunch between Judging Rounds.

[Register here for online SSEF Judge Registration](#)

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## Meet the Members

Every quarter we focus on one of our outstanding active current members and one student member to highlight the benefits of ASCE and our profession. In addition, we have also added a new category for life members. If there is someone you know that has made a great contribution to our field, please nominate them by emailing [Judy Nichols](#).

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### **Kathi Ruvarac, PE WSP**

**Why did you join ASCE?** I joined ASCE to advance my professional development and to learn networking skills. A coworker suggested I volunteer for a position in SEI and I was honored to join the Board.

**What would you say has been the best benefit of being a member?** The best benefit I have received is the personal satisfaction of being involved with ASCE committees and staff at the Society, state and local levels and the ability to make a difference in my community.

**What advice would you give to other students/professionals on the benefits of joining a professional society and participating in the organization?** I gained confidence with public speaking by presenting at ASCE Board of Direction meetings which has helped me professionally. You have the opportunity to meet professionals in all civil

engineering disciplines with whom you can network and who can mentor you.

**What do you like best about being an engineer?** The variety of projects I have contributed to provide solutions for our infrastructure challenges. For example, High Speed Rail, Light Rail, and Bus Rapid Transit.

**What is the most interesting thing about yourself that you can share?** I enjoy drawing and painting as hobbies. I started my career preparing plans on the drafting board and progressed to obtain my Civil Engineering degree at UCF.

**What was a time you felt most accomplished as an engineer?** When I worked with FEMA Disaster Recovery Teams as a Bridge Technical Specialist inspecting bridges around the country. I enjoyed the field work and found that assisting communities to rebuild after an event was very rewarding.

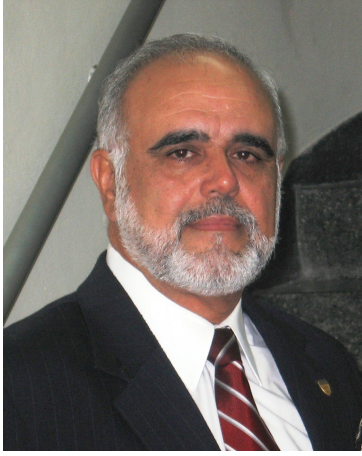
***Kathi is the ASCE Florida Section's President-Elect and will be installed at the Annual Conference in July.***

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### **Sergio Alfonso, Jr., PE, F. ASCE Marlin Engineering, Inc.**

**Why did you join ASCE?** In August 1981 I joined the ASCE, this was upon finishing college and starting on my second professional employment. Being a Civil Engineer is special; the work we plan, design and construct touches the life of everyone. The ASCE helps its members to be responsible by improving the technical, professional and ethical areas required to be a successful engineer.

ASCE gives you the tools to become a more valuable professional.



**What advice would you give our younger members about the benefits of ASCE?** Join the ASCE the sooner the better. Hopefully while in college. Find a mentor willing to teach you and share his/hers experience. Participate and get involved in every activity that interests you. ASCE offers an array of opportunities for you to share and contribute your talent. Work hard and dedicate yourself without thinking about earning recognition for dreams come true only if your goal is to accomplish a work well done.

**What is one of the most memorable experiences associated with your career in engineering?** There are many, the satisfaction to train and mentor younger engineers. And see them prosper professionally. Being recognized by ASCE Miami Branch as "Engineer of the Year" in 2013. Being recognized by C-AACE for "Lifetime Achievements" in 2010.

**If you could turn back time, what would you change about your career in engineering?** Basically nothing. I am proud and content to have chosen the best career - the "People Serving Career." But if I have to mention something, is to have joined the ASCE earlier and volunteer more of my services.

**What do you believe is your greatest accomplishment in your career?** I am proud to have been part of teams that helped South Florida transportation system. Such as the "Golden Glades Park and Ride Parking Lot", "Sawgrass Express Way", "MacArthur Causeway", "NW 25 Street Viaduct" just to mention few. Also, been cofounder of a consulting firm. What started as a two-man operation in 1991, is now 100+ person multi-disciplined company - Marlin Engineering, Inc.



### **Abigail Rains Student, University of Central Florida**

**Why did you join ASCE?** I switched my major to Civil Engineering after 2 years of being at UCF. I knew if I wanted to be successful as a civil engineer, I needed a way to meet people and get involved, and I'd always heard ASCE was a big deal on our campus. I started going to general body meetings and joined the concrete canoe row team the same year and have been heavily involved ever since!

**What would you say has been the best benefit of being a member?** The best benefit is definitely the network I've built and the people I've met. I have met all of my friends through ASCE and have had the pleasure of meeting so many amazing professionals, some of which have gotten me internships.

**What advice would you give to other students/professionals on the benefits of joining a professional society and participating in the organization?** Joining a society like ASCE is such an eye-opener and exposes you to more than just the engineering you do at work or in school. It creates a community for you to lean on when you need it and means so much

more than just being part of a group of like-minded individuals as yourself. It allows you to be more involved in your community, in your branch, and in your state. It gives you opportunities to learn about different aspects of engineering that you may not normally be exposed to on a daily basis, and it teaches you to think outside the box. ASCE is always growing and is becoming more and more innovative by the day. Being part of an organization like ASCE gives you different perspectives on your profession and enables you to be more understanding of the work the society does.

**What do you like best about being an engineer?** The best part about being an engineer is getting to solve problems every day. Civil engineering isn't always the type of engineering you can see but knowing that you're solving problems and making society better and more efficient (even when people don't know it or recognize it) is the most rewarding part. It's the perfect combination of a profession where you can use your technical knowledge and give back to the community too.

**What is the most interesting thing about yourself that you can share?** An interesting thing about me is that I've been a Disney passholder for almost 7 years now! I've grown up in Orlando my whole life and have always loved getting to visit. My favorite park is Magic Kingdom, and my favorite ride is Big Thunder Mountain.

**What was your first experience joining ASCE?** My first experience joining ASCE was attending a UCF chapter general body meeting at UCF. I had no idea what anything meant at the time, or what the "student symposium" was, but I thought it would be fun to travel to another university and compete in competitions that were relevant to my major, so I said, why not!

**What was a time you felt most accomplished as an engineer?** A time I felt most accomplished as an engineer was when I got my first internship at Hanson, Walter and Associates in Kissimmee, FL. It was during Summer 2021, right as COVID was starting to die down and offices were opening back up. At that time I had not taken any civil engineering related courses, just the calculus and physics prerequisites, and I was eager to learn about civil engineering. After a couple of months there, I remember driving home one day when it was raining and thinking to myself, "Wow there's so much water draining into that ditch

## News You Can Use

### Trending articles on current affairs

#### [Industry Mostly Hails Biden Speech's Pro-Infrastructure Stance](#)

Engineering News-Record

#### [Cities race to add EV charging stations — pronto](#)

Axios

#### [DOE to dispense \\$43M of support to 23 clean energy, grid reliability projects](#)

Daily Energy Insider

#### [All but Florida, South Dakota apply for federal cyber grants allocated by infrastructure bill](#)

The Record

#### [New OMB Guidance on "Buy America" Requirements Raises Industry Questions](#)

Engineering News-Record

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**SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc. (SAI)** is a leading transportation design and construction management firm with offices in Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Philadelphia, and Florida. SAI is currently seeking a highly motivated individual for our Lake Mary/Orlando, Florida office. Come and join us to work on local and statewide transportation projects, with excellent opportunities for professional growth, advancement, and a competitive salary. We are currently seeking resumes for:

**Entry-Level Roadway Engineer** – We are looking for a team member in our Transportation Design Group with the desire to work on projects within our Roadway Department.

**Responsibilities:**

- Coordinate design elements over multiple disciplines
- Strong technical ability to provide guidance and oversight of the design process
- Work collaboratively with other team members, consultants, and our clients

**Qualifications:**

- BS in Civil Engineering
- Experience with FDOT projects development required
- Experience in preparation of highway plans, specifications, and estimates for FDOT projects is a plus
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Qualified applicants should submit current resume and salary history in confidence to:

SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
1350 Penn Avenue, #300



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**Roadway Engineer** - We are looking for a team member in our Transportation Design Group with the desire to work on projects within our Highway Department.

**Responsibilities:**

- Coordinate design elements over multiple disciplines
- Strong technical ability to provide guidance and oversight of the design process
- Work collaboratively with other team members, consultants, and our clients

**Qualifications:**

- BS in Civil Engineering
- Florida PE with minimum of 5 years' experience preferred
- Experience in preparation of roadway plans, Traffic Control Plans, 3D Modeling in OpenRoad/FDOT Connect
- Strong work ethic
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Qualified applicants should submit current resume and salary history in confidence to:

SAI Consulting Engineers, Inc.

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Attention: Human Resources Manager

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