

WOW! CONTEST!

What: Wall of Wind Mitigation Contest with High School Students

Who: International Hurricane Research Center

Where: College of Engineering and Computing Building,
10555 W. Flagler Street, Florida International University

When: Wednesday, May 19th

Time: 8am to 2pm



Contest Timetable:

8am-9am: High School Teams and Judges Arrive

9am-12pm: High School Teams Compete; Judges Score Team Projects

12pm-1pm: Lunch provided for students, teachers, judges and volunteers.

1pm-2pm: Winners Announced, Awards, Prizes and *Wall of Wind* Demonstration at Blue Building opposite the Engineering Building.

(A Media Conference is also pending and the time is yet to be determined.)

For more information on the contest, please visit:

<http://www.ihrc.fiu.edu/lwer/wowcontest/>

National Hurricane Center, Miami National Weather Service, Miami-Dade County Emergency Management, Florida Division of Emergency Management and Federal Alliance for Safe Homes will be participating as Judges, including former National Hurricane Center Director Max Mayfield.

WOW Contest Purpose:

The purpose of this contest is to illustrate hurricane mitigation techniques that will safeguard people, reduce property loss, reduce insurance costs, and promote a "culture of preparedness" for natural disasters. High School student projects will focus on the mitigation of hurricane damage to buildings that will safeguard people.

The International Hurricane Research Center has a research and testing facility called the *RenaissanceRe* 6-Fan Wall of Wind. Essentially, it is an array of six very large fans that are used to test structures, materials and products and their ability to withstand hurricane force winds. *RenaissanceRe* is a premier global provider of reinsurance and insurance coverages for natural and man-made catastrophes. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.renre.com/>.

For the WOW Contest, teams comprised of South Florida high school students will test innovative mitigation concepts with a smaller scale replica of the 6-Fan Wall of Wind.

For more information or questions, please contact:

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International Hurricane Research Center

<http://www.ihrc.fiu.edu/>

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