

FES December Updates

Florida Engineering Society

Central Florida Chapter



Updates from the Florida Engineering Society

February 2026

President's Message

FES Central Florida President's Message

Happy New Year, and welcome to 2026! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and is off to a strong start in the new year.



It's hard to believe that the first month of 2026 has already flown by. Our chapter held our first

social event of the year, and it was a fantastic success with an excellent turnout. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make it such an enjoyable evening.

As we look ahead, we have several exciting opportunities coming up. On **February 20th**, we will be hosting our next outreach event at **Avalon Elementary School**. We are currently seeking volunteers to support our **School Day Teach-Ins**, which play an important role in furthering engineering outreach and inspiring the next generation of professionals. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

Additionally, planning is underway for one of our biggest events of the year—our **Annual Golf Tournament**. This is always a fun and meaningful event that supports our chapter and Scholarship Fund.

I encourage all members to get involved by joining a committee, volunteering at events, and staying connected with our chapter activities. With so many fun events and outreach opportunities on the horizon, there is something for everyone.

I am grateful for everyone's continued support, dedication, and enthusiasm.

Thank you for everything you do to strengthen FES Central Florida. I look forward to a great year together and an even better 2026 ahead.

Please get involved, stay engaged, and help us continue to grow the profession.

Thank you again, and I'll see you at our upcoming events!

Warm regards,

Nate Willbur, P.E.

President, FES Central Florida

David Keough, PE

February 2026

At the time of this writing, much of the country is in the grip of bitter cold, and even here in Florida, we have felt the effects of unusual temperature swings. These moments serve as a timely reminder that sound engineering design must always account for extremes—not just averages. Freeze protection, thermal expansion and contraction, and



resilience to major temperature excursions are not “northern problems.” They are engineering realities.

[Read More](#)

Local Events

Teach-In

FES Central Florida is looking for volunteers for our upcoming School Day Teach-In at Avalon Elementary School on February 20th. This is a great opportunity to support engineering outreach, engage with students, and help inspire the next generation of engineers.

If you are available to participate, we would love to have your help. Your time and involvement make a meaningful impact.



Volunteer

Government Affairs

Thank You for Attending 2026 Professional Engineers' Days

Thank you to those members who participated in the 2026 PE Legislative Days! By engaging one-on-one with your representatives and senators, you provided a personal perspective to the policy, which was invaluable to our success. You made a difference!

If you attended, please take a few moments to complete the survey you receive and share any insight gained from your meetings with lawmakers and legislative staff – whether it's about our priority issues or other hot topics like property tax reform and the budget. Your feedback will be used to develop targeted messages and outreach tools to strengthen our advocacy efforts on behalf of our members and the engineering industry.

[Click here to see our 2026 legislative priorities](#)

The FES Board of Directors met on January 20, 2026, in conjunction with the 2026 PE Days. Deirdre Finn, the new Executive Director, shared her vision for the future of the Florida Engineering Society, which focuses on strengthening the value of membership, modernizing internal processes to improve accountability and transparency, and developing the tools and resources to support members' advocacy and professional growth.

Please save the date for **April 16-17**, at Hawks Cay Resort & Villas, for the FES Board, Orientation, & Planning Meetings.



2026 Professional Engineers' Days

Representative Bill Conerly, FES & ACEC Florida members

We have uploaded both the professional photos and those taken by our members to a [Facebook album](#). Additional photos will be added as they are received.

[View Photos](#)

Moore Testifies at Capitol on Fair, Insurable Contract Standards

On January 27, **Peter Moore, PE, LEED AP**, President and CEO of Chen Moore and Chair of the Commission on Legislative & Government Affairs, testified before the Florida Senate Judiciary Committee on [Senate Bill 888](#). His message that “uninsurable clauses in contracts are bad for business” focused on two facets of insurability – indemnification and standard of care. On indemnification, he advocated for applying the same rules to all contracts across Florida, limiting requirements for coverage to what’s insurable but still ensuring taxpayers and property owners are protected against errors, omissions, negligence and recklessness. On standard of care, he advocated for “standardization of the standard of care” to the level of skill typically provided by a competent design professional, eliminating the use of terms such as “highest” or “best” standard of care which are uninsurable.

[Support SB 888: Why it Matters](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions about Indemnification](#)



[Learn More](#)

Weekly Legislative Update Calls

We invite you to participate in weekly Legislative Update calls via Microsoft Teams that will be held each Friday morning throughout the Legislative Session.

9:00 - 9:30 am Environmental Bills

10:00 - 10:30 am General and
Transportation Bills



Make sure to click on the link "Export to Your Calendar" to add these calls to your calendar.

[Sign Up](#)

News from FES

Support Florida Construction Career Days



Hosted in part by ACEC Florida and the Florida Department of Transportation, **Florida Construction Career Days (CCD)** is an educational outreach program designed to cultivate interest in high school students for various skilled construction careers.

Local events are held with construction industry professionals, which allow students to get a feel for the field by participating in activities like operating

[Central Florida](#)

January 29-30, 2026

[Northwest Florida](#)

February 18-19, 2026

[Northeast Florida](#)

February 24-26, 2026

[Tampa Bay](#)

March 31, 2026

machinery and speaking to experienced industry veterans.

There are many regional events for you to support and get involved in as a volunteer.

[Learn More](#)

MATHCOUNTS® Help Needed

MATHCOUNTS introduces students to STEM careers through contacts with engineers and other professionals who serve as volunteers at Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competitions. Winners then move on to the Florida MATHCOUNTS state competition in Daytona Beach at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical

Click Chapter Name for details!



The poster features a light blue background with mathematical symbols like pi, infinity, and numbers scattered throughout. It lists 14 chapters with their respective dates and locations. Each chapter name is in a blue box with a white downward-pointing triangle icon to its left.

Date	Chapter Name	Location
FEBRUARY 1	MIAMI	MIAMI DADE COLLEGE KENDALL CAMPUS GYM
FEBRUARY 7	CALUSA	THE COLLABORATORY
	DAYTONA BEACH	DAVID C. HINSON, SR. MIDDLE SCHOOL
	EMERALD COAST	ROCKY BAYOU CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
	RIDGE	ALL SAINTS ACADEMY
FEBRUARY 12	GULF COAST	GULF COAST STATE COLLEGE STUDENT UNION
FEBRUARY 13	MYAKKA	STATE COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
FEBRUARY 14	BIG BEND	FAMU-FSU COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
FEBRUARY 20	NORTHEAST FLORIDA	TBD
	NORTH CENTRAL	STEPHEN C. O'CONNELL CENTER
	TREASURE COAST	INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE
FEBRUARY 21	FOREST CHAPTER	OSCEOLA MIDDLE SCHOOL
	INDIAN RIVER	WEST SHORE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL
	NORTHWEST FLORIDA	DOWNTOWN PENSACOLA LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 22	PALM BEACH	FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY UNION
FEBRUARY 28	BROWARD	NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

University on March 20,
2026.

Chapter competitions
start on **February 1 and
continue through
February 28**. Help make a
difference and attend,
volunteer, or sponsor your
local Chapter (or State)
competition.

In-kind donations are also
needed! Examples are
pencils, snacks, or kid-
friendly restaurant gift
cards. Mail to: FES, 370
Office Plaza Dr,
Tallahassee, FL 32301,
Attn: Kamryn Hacker.

[Search Chapter](#)
[Competition Dates](#)

FES Student Chapters Conference

The FES University of Florida Student Chapter is hosting a **Student Chapter Conference** on **February 7-8, 2026**.

This conference will bring together engineering students from all chapters and industry professionals to strengthen connections across FES student chapters, share best practices, and build relationships that support both student success and industry needs.



Discussion topics include:

- Event planning, scaling, fundraising and sponsorships
- Member retention and engagement
- Professional development for students and translating student leadership to industry leadership
- Parent chapter relationships
- The role of students in the future of engineering

Registration options are available for both students and professionals.

[Register](#)

Send Us Your Nominations for 2026

FES offers the opportunity for professional recognition through its various awards programs. Each year, nominations are solicited from the Society's 19 chapters for the following:



[Fellow Memberships](#)

Deadline: February 15, 2026

[Engineer of the Year](#)

[Young Engineer of the Year](#)

[Outstanding Service to the Engineering Profession Award](#)

[Outstanding Technical Achievement Award](#)

Deadline: March 15, 2026

[FECON Individual Excellence Award](#)

[FPEG Professional Development Award](#)

[FPEG Engineer of the Year](#)

[FPEI Engineer of the Year](#)

[FPEI New Product Award](#)

Deadline: April 17, 2026

[Learn More](#)

FES Scholarships Available

The Florida Engineering Foundation (FEF) generously funds FES scholarships made possible by the generous tax-deductible contributions of members, private companies, and the general public.

Contributions can be made [online](#) or by mail to FEF, 352 NW Alice Ave, Stuart, FL 34997.

Available scholarships include:

[High School](#) - Due February 15, 2026

[University](#) - Due February 15, 2026

[Named](#) - Due February 15, 2026

We are also pleased to announce the availability of various scholarships from the FES Practice Sections.



[FECON Scholarship](#) \$1,000 - Due April 17,
2026

[FPEG Scholarship](#) \$1,000 - Due April 17,
2026

[FPEI Scholarship](#) \$500 - Due April 17, 2026

(3 available)

[Learn More](#)

New \$5,000 Scholarship from ACEC Florida

ACEC Florida is proud to offer a \$5,000 scholarship supporting the next generation of engineers who will shape our state's communities and infrastructure for the **2026-2027 academic year**. This scholarship will be awarded to one qualified student currently enrolled in an ABET-accredited engineering program at a Florida university or college. Applicants must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 or higher to be considered.

Other engineering scholarships are available through the **ACEC Research**



Institute, where qualified students have access to more than 100 scholarships totaling nearly \$1 million in grants.

Applications are due **March 13, 2026**.

[Learn More](#)

Invite Recent EIs

FES offers a one-year complimentary membership to those engineers who have recently passed their engineer intern (EI) certification in Florida.



FES provides each Chapter with the contact information for these EIs quarterly so you can reach out personally, invite them to your local events, and get them more involved in your Chapter. We want to ensure they see the value of an FES membership.

Upcoming Events



FES | ACEC Florida Events

[FES Student Chapters Conference](#)

February 7, 2026

[FECON | Kind Designs Living Seawalls 3D Printing Facility Tour](#)

February 12, 2026



Chapter Events

[Ridge Chapter | Lakeland Electric Tour](#)

February 12, 2026

[Treasure Coast Chapter | MATHCOUNTS® Competition](#)

February 20, 2026

[Northwest Florida Chapter | MATHCOUNTS® Competition](#)

[ACEC Florida Engineering Excellence Banquet](#)

February 13, 2026

[FELI Class of 2026: Session III](#)

February 19-21, 2026

[Florida MATHCOUNTS® State Competition](#)

March 20, 2026

[GMEC Conference](#)

April 8-10, 2026

February 21, 2026

[Central Florida | Annual Benefit Golf Tournament](#)

March 23, 2026

FES Career Board

Are you hiring new employees or searching for a job?

Check out the [FES Career Board](#).

Our online classified ads get noticed by hundreds of users every month. You can either post an ad to find a new hire or browse to find your next job.

Contact [Stacey Butler](#), Director of Marketing and Communications, for more information or details on pricing.



FES Career Center & Job Board

who's hiring?

Post Online Ads or Search for Jobs

The graphic features a blue background with a white laptop in the center. The laptop screen displays the FES Career Center & Job Board website interface, which includes a search bar and a magnifying glass icon. The text 'FES Career Center & Job Board' is at the top, and 'who's hiring?' is written in a large, yellow, stylized font to the left of the laptop. Below the laptop, the text 'Post Online Ads or Search for Jobs' is written in white. The FES logo is visible in the top left corner of the laptop screen.



2025 Annual Sponsors

Thank you for your support!

