



PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS



IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

For Immediate Release

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### Media Advisory

## Local students learn math, engineering and physics by building, busting model bridges

**Sacramento, CA (1/19/2018)** – State engineers and Sacramento County schools will give kids a unique hands-on learning experience by having them bring carefully engineered and constructed model bridges – and then testing the structures to the point of cracking under measured stress. State Senator Dr. Richard Pan of Sacramento is scheduled to speak to the students, their teachers and parents at the event, which is sponsored by Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG), Promoting Readiness for Engineering Professions (PREP) and California State University, Sacramento.

The competition will draw talented middle school and high school students from across the greater Sacramento area to compete for top honors by building balsa wood bridges using applied engineering, math and physics. The competition will conclude with each team subjecting their bridges to incrementally heavier weight until the structures collapse. Winners will receive prizes ranging from \$300 to \$1,500.

**Photo/video opportunities include teams testing their bridges. Judges, teachers and students will also be available to discuss the contest, its educational value and the push to recruit more girls and women into engineering.**

**What:** California's Second Annual Model Bridge Building Contest, which pits structures built by eight teams of students against each other to construct the most efficient bridge. The showcase will include the testing of strength-to-weight ratios of the balsa wood bridges after the students give a verbal presentation to a panel of judges.

**When:** Saturday, January 20, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (media opportunity schedule below)

**Where:** 6000 J St, Sacramento, CA 95819 in the Union Ballroom (see map below).

**Who:** Local student contestants  
Dr. Richard Pan, California State Senator of Sacramento  
PECG members judging and organizing the event  
Chelsea Merrill, PECG External Affairs Director  
Daniel Kemether, PECG Policy Analyst  
Jon Ortiz, PECG Media and Research Director

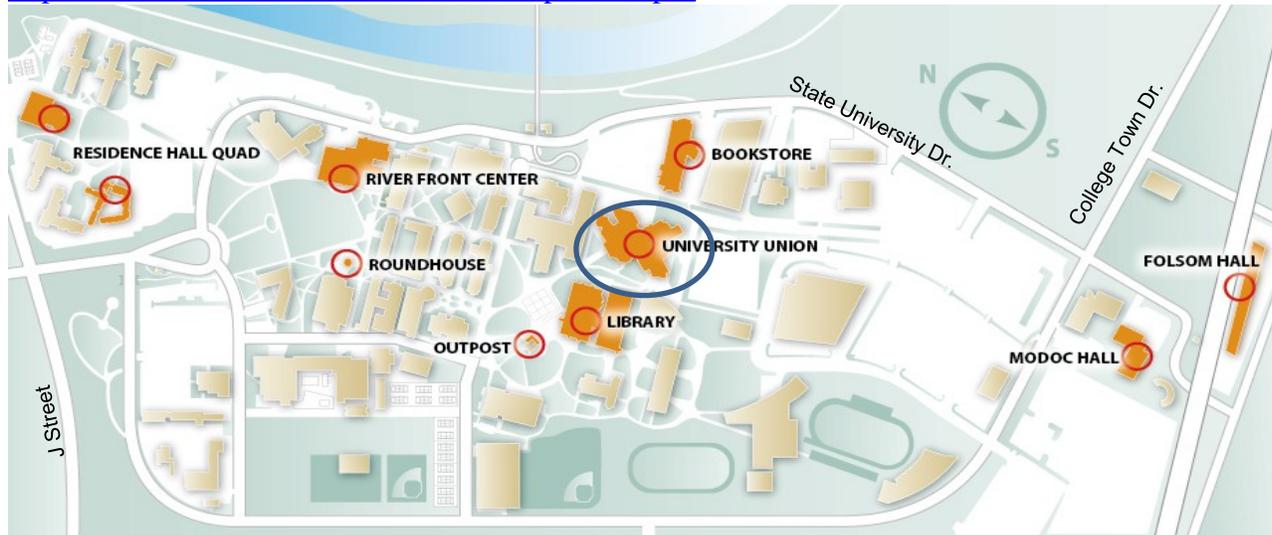
**Why:** The students apply physics and engineering to build a model bridge, test it under measured stress.

**Video Link:** [This video shows the meter](#) that will incrementally ramp up stress on the bridges. The image will be projected behind the contestants to build visual dramatic tension up to the point that the tested bridges crack. **PECG is recording the projected image and can provide b-roll upon request.**

HEADQUARTERS: 455 Capitol Mall, Suite 501, Sacramento, CA 95814 • (916) 446-0400  
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SAN FRANCISCO: 100 Pine Street, Suite 750, San Francisco, CA 94111 • (415) 861-5720

**Map/Directions:** We are meeting in the University Union Ballroom on Sacramento State University campus at 6000 J Street in Sacramento.

[http://www.csus.edu/about/documents/map\\_small.pdf](http://www.csus.edu/about/documents/map_small.pdf)



**Best times for photos, videos and interviews:**

**PHOTOS/VIDEO:**

10 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. -- Middle school bridge stress tests  
10:45 to 11 a.m. – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade bridge stress tests  
11:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. -- 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade bridge stress tests

**INTERVIEWS:**

PECG members who support the program are available at any time  
High schoolers, their teachers and parents: 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
Middle schoolers, their teachers and parents: 10:45 a.m. to noon  
Dr. Pan appearance: 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

*PECG represents 13,000 state-employed engineers and related professionals responsible for designing and inspecting California's infrastructure, improving air and water quality, and developing clean energy and green technology.*

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