



FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES

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Florida League of Cities Announces Winners Of Statewide Civic Innovation Competition

Florida Atlantic University student wins 2021 MuniMod competition

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TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The **Florida League of Cities**, the united voice for Florida’s municipal governments, today announced the winners of this year’s MuniMod competition, which is the state’s largest civic technology competition and the only competition to focus solely on solutions for cities. A **Florida Atlantic University** student took home first place and the \$15,000 grand prize for their “SPods” project. Two recent graduates of **Flagler College** and the **University of Florida** placed second and took home \$5,000 for their “EaseAlert” project.

“The Florida League of Cities is dedicated to supporting our members through initiatives like MuniMod that help create innovative solutions to address the unique issues facing Florida’s municipal operations, especially during these challenging times,” said **FLC President Tony Ortiz, commissioner** for the **City of Orlando**. “I commend all of this year’s teams for successfully working together to create new ways to deliver or improve upon Florida’s municipal services and would like to extend a very special congratulations to the winning teams. You now have additional resources and experience to help you achieve your dreams, and we can’t wait to see what your future holds. Thank you for helping us build stronger cities!”

Florida Atlantic University student Paris Prince’s winning project, “SPods,” is a dissolvable water and soap capsule that allows users to wash their hands without the use of an external water supply.

“I’m so grateful for everything I gained from MuniMod,” said Prince. “The connections I made and the feedback I received throughout the competition were the most beneficial part of this experience. This is the footstool I needed to further advance this product.”

The second-place project, “EaseAlert,” was created by Blake Richardson and Elezar Tonev, recent graduates of Flagler College and the University of Florida. “EaseAlert” is a tactile pre-alerting system for firefighters designed to combat the leading killer of firefighters: heart attacks.

“MuniMod helped us improve our pitch and highlight the benefits of our product to firefighters who protect our cities,” said Richardson and Tonev. “This competition and win will allow us to really go for it with this product. This means so much to us and we’re so appreciative.”

Held for the sixth time, this year's MuniMod was done virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic. A total of eight teams participated in the competition. Some schools had multiple teams participate and overall, six schools were represented: **Flagler College, Florida A&M University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, Florida State University** and the **University of Florida**.

MuniMod lays the foundation for a new generation of civic problem-solvers by giving students a way to apply their skills to real-world issues. By working to bridge the gap between technology and cities, the students will help municipalities throughout Florida and potentially nationwide. The competition is open to all colleges and universities in the state of Florida.

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Founded in 1922, the Florida League of Cities is the united voice for Florida's municipal governments. Its goals are to promote local self-government and serve the needs of Florida's cities, which are formed and governed by their citizens. The League believes in "Local Voices Making Local Choices," which focuses on the impact citizens and city leaders have in improving Florida's communities. For more information, visit flcities.com.