USU Engineering Students Receive Design Award | College of Engineering

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News Release - Jan. 20, 2017 - A team of USU student engineers were awarded a plaque for being the Runner Up at the WEF Student Design Competition at WEFTECH 2016. The USU student chapter of the Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU) won the state competition spring of 2016 and qualified for WEFTECH. WEFTECH is the annual national convention for the Water Environment Federation (WEF), the convention attracts 25,000 professionals from the water and wastewater industries.

Members of the student chapter of the Water Environment Federation and the Water Environment Association of Utah, along with faculty advisors, received an award for their design of a new biosolids management system for the Central Davis Sewer District.

The Utah State University student chapter of the Water Environment Association of Utah (WEAU) is a student organization that focuses on water quality; primarily wastewater treatment. The USU student chapter competes in the annual state student design competition, and has won state the past three years. The student design competition allows students to work with a wastewater treatment facility within Utah. The students must design a solution for a problem that has been identified at the wastewater treatment plant.

The 2016 competition challenged students to design a new biosolids management system for Central Davis Sewer District. The team proposed an innovative solution that involved a new technology called Biochar which efficiently reduces the volume of the biosolids, eliminates foul odors, and has a net zero energy footprint.

The 2016 team was composed of Ahmad Bitar (Graduate Student, CEE), Erin Andersen (Graduate Student, CEE), Dominique Bertrand (Junior, CEE), Darren Bingham (Senior, NR), and Dan Horne (Junior, CEE) and is mentored by Dr. Ryan DuPont. “We had a tremendous show of support from the Dean of the College of Engineering, the CEE department, the College of Natural Resources, and WEAU” says Dominique, the 2016 co-team leader. “We are also grateful for our academic advisors, and for our professional mentors at Carollo, MWH, and JUB Engineers.”
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