Great Lakes Student Conference
COVID-19 Update #1
Dear Great Lakes Student Chapter,

I know these are unprecedented times, but I hope this update helps everyone plan for the school year and brings some excitement for the future. Included in this update is our approach for planning for the conference and some information from AISC and ASCE. We will continue to keep everyone updated of the situation as I know universities are continually changing policies.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Mackenzie Henson
GLSC 2021 Head Coordinator
Online or In-Person? – ASCE and AISC have said different things, which I have outlined below, but our main approach is going to plan for steel bridge and concrete canoe to be in-person (and maybe a couple of the side events) and the meetings, banquet, and most side events to be online. We will continue to monitor the situation and update you on any decisions we make as nothing is final right now.

**ASCE**
ASCE is planning for an in-person conference with no restrictions until further notice.

**AISC**
Preregistration for AISC is due October 30th and they will ask you which options you would like to select for competing. I have detailed them below.

In addition to preregistration, AISC has two decision dates for schools to decide if you want to attend the in-person or virtual conference option. The first date is November 15th and the second date is January 15th. This will help us track what people are thinking in terms of attending the conference as more information is released. The option descriptions are below:

Schools can choose to participate in the in-person or virtual competition and/or the supplemental competition. For the in-person or virtual competition, schools will choose to either compete in the in-person competition or compete in the compete from home competition. Schools can choose the compete from home option even if the in-person competition is not cancelled, but they cannot compete in both.
**In-person competition** - “With the same structure of previous SSBC events, the competition will have the design, build, and testing components as part of an on-campus event organized by a Regional Event Host School.” This competition option will include several COVID-19 restrictions to protect everyone involved.

**Compete from home** - If a team is unable to travel to an SSBC Regional Event, or if their SSBC Regional Event is canceled, teams will have the option to compete in the SSBC from their university if local conditions are safe. Teams will enter this competition by a video submission. This competition will be organized by AISC, rather than the Host School. It will include a build and testing component. AISC will release guidelines for competing from campus in November 2020.

“Student teams competing at an in-person Regional Event will not be judged against student teams competing from their campus. Teams competing from campus will be part of a separate region, competing only against other teams that are also participating from their respective campuses.”

**Supplemental competition** - “This year, AISC is launching a new, design-only team contest that allows for 100% virtual participation from start to finish. This Supplemental Competition provides another opportunity for teams to experience the SSBC in light of existing and potential restrictions related to the ongoing pandemic. Student teams will be asked to submit a written report and a video summarizing their design and construction sequence for the bridge. The Supplemental Competition is open to any student team that meets the normal SSBC eligibility requirements as defined by the Rules, whether or not they are competing in the main Competition. More information, including the Rules for the Supplemental Competition can be found on our Rules and Clarifications page.”
C. Team Decision Matrix

Your team may use the following decision tree to determine how you will participate in the 2021 SSBC.

- Is your team able to fabricate a physical bridge? 
  - No: Participate in the Supplemental Competition
  - Yes: Is your team able and willing to travel to an in-person Regional Event?
    - No: Participate in the SSBC: Compete from Campus*
    - Yes: Participate in the SSBC: In-Person**

* SSBC: Compete from Campus participants may also participate in the Supplemental Competition.

** SSBC: In-Person participants may also participate in the Supplemental Competition. Additionally, if a team’s in-person SSBC Regional Event is cancelled, they will have the option to compete from campus.