



University of Florida



<http://2017.igem.org/Team:UFlorida>

This is the inaugural year for both the University of Florida and Florida State University. While we have a historic rivalry, we decided to brush past the tension of our past with the pursuit of a common goal: developing synthetic biology! We began the summer with communications through email or over skype to deal with initial troubleshooting: current status, lab protocols, ideas about outreach, etc. We quickly realized that these issues could be more general than just our specific project, and that we could stimulate interest in synthetic biology, increase awareness about iGEM, and assist new iGEM teams with a YouTube series on the channel Florida iGEM! We've since published four videos, but we hope that this series is the start of a continual dialogue among the teams within Florida.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkOVy1IL2z8&t=1s>

Lethbridge



<http://2017.igem.org/Team:Lethbridge>

As the first team from FSU to compete, we established a relationship with the Lethbridge team via our Primary PI, Cesar Rodriguez. He worked remotely with the Lethbridge team in both 2015 and 2016 to give them project guidance as an advisor. This year, the Lethbridge team returned the favor with mentorship and project guidance with a series of conference calls throughout the summer. From modelling and design to the wiki, Lethbridge assisted us to quickly get accustomed to the iGEM competition.

We were also able to collaborate on a joint venture when we mailed them two of our constructs, BBa_K2367009 and BBa_K2367010, to test the ability to *in vitro* transcribe them in their transcribing and translation system. Unfortunately, it was not able to transcribe, and we realized that our Anderson promoter was not compatible with their system. For their system to work well for synthetic biologists, this common *E. coli* promoter needs to be compatible. Thus, the Lethbridge team is considering incorporating native *E. coli* RNA polymerase into their system in the future.