

Christine Scoby
Shorecrest Preparatory School, Pinellas County.
2023 NIE Teacher of the Year Runner-Up



"I use the Tampa Bay Times in all my classes: Digital Storytelling, Technology, Entrepreneurial Design Institute and Competitive Robotics. Finding timely and relevant news is an important part of the research process. I can't thank NIE and Tampa Bay Times enough for providing such a great resource for my students."

Christine teaches technology at Shorecrest Preparatory School in Pinellas County.

Christine was chosen as a 2023 NIE Teacher of the Year Runner-Up for using the Tampa Bay Times to inspire and inform her students by relating what they are learning in the classroom to the real world.

Christine uses the Times throughout the year in both her Competitive Robotics and her Entrepreneurial Design Institute classes. Both classes require students to develop a product or

process that solves a problem.

Sometimes, students need inspiration for their project. Sometimes, they need to verify the magnitude of the problem. Christine considers the Times to be an essential resource for both. Here's an example of how Christine integrates the Times into this process:

Christine's Competitive Robotics students compete in FIRST LEGO League, which releases a new Challenge based on a real-world, scientific theme every year. This year, the Challenge was to research and solve a problem with the way energy is distributed, stored and used.

The team found their initial inspiration from articles in the Times about Florida residents losing power after Hurricanes Nicole and Ian.

The students began to research the top causes of downed power lines and found that most were caused by trees and other objects falling on them. The team developed the following research question to guide their design process: "How might we redesign electric lines to be more reliable, repaired more efficiently and affordably?"

After conducting research to understand the problem, brainstorming possible solutions, and interviewing professional engineers, the team decided to prototype a solution that they named SwiftLink.

SwiftLink is an electric line connector that's designed to snap apart and cut the flow of electricity if something falls on the power line, but can be easily and quickly snapped back together to repair the line.

The team came in second place at the FIRST LEGO League's West Florida Regionals, earning a bid to the state competition and the Razorback International Invitational in May.

