Helena Zikov and Grant Hoffman, seniors in Civil & Architectural Engineering, represented the University of Arizona at the American Society of Civil Engineer’s (ASCE) 2022 Construction Institute Student Days. ASCE covered all expenses to this event held in Charleston, South Carolina from July 29 through August 2. The four-and-a-half-day program included technical and career development sessions presented by members of the CI Board and local industry members, an industry panel on career opportunities, speed networking, a team-building scavenger hunt and a technical post-construction tour – all setting up attendees to thrive when they return to school in the fall or enter the construction profession. Student teams were created by combining students from different universities. The teams participated in a heavy civil challenge involving a real highway widening project from the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Student teams created construction schedules and budgets and presented their plans to a panel of judges that included some of the SC DOT engineers who worked on the real project.

Grant noted that he especially liked networking with industry professionals and developing friendships with students from across the country.

Helena shared, “I learned a lot about the nuances involved in bidding a project. Overall, I am grateful to have been given the chance to visit Charleston and learn from the many industry professionals that attended!”

*Helena and Grant at the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, which is a cable-stayed bridge over the Cooper River connecting downtown Charleston to Mount Pleasant.*