

# **NABEC Graduate Student Research Award**

## **(Graduate Oral Paper and Poster Competitions)**

### **Purpose**

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The purpose of the NABEC Graduate Student Research Award is to recognize excellence in the conduct and presentation of research to build the knowledge base needed by engineers. This includes design and analysis of equipment, facilities, and processes for the sustainable operation of a biological system.

### **Award**

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The award consists of two competitions, one for oral presentations and one for poster presentations. The presentations will be evaluated and judged by a judging committee for each category. Certificates and a cash award for winners of each competition will be presented at NABEC banquet.

All entries are due by the deadline for proposals as announced by NABEC. Early entries for oral presentations are suggested as time slots are limited. Submissions after the deadline won't be considered for the award.

### **Eligibility**

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Contestants shall be graduate students at the time of presentation or have completed the requirements for a graduate degree in Biological/Agricultural Engineering or related degree program within the previous year.

Submitted research papers must report only research for which the student had substantial involvement. It is understood that publication of this research will typically have co-authors (major professor, committee members, and technical assistants). It is appropriate to recognize these co-authors, but they will not be listed as co-authors for the award.

### **Criteria for judging**

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#### **CONTENT (50 POINTS)**

The purpose of the presentation is to convey to a wide audience a research project's significance to scholars in the field and its potential significance to the general public. The visual display should testify to the careful design and execution of the research and present clear results that are well interpreted. It must include:

1. Short title of the presentation
2. Student's name (or names, if more than one student is presenting the exhibit)
3. Collaborators, advisor(s), and department(s)
4. Funding sources
5. Objectives
6. Significance to the field
7. Significance to society in general
8. Methods
9. Results
10. Interpretation of results and conclusions
11. Directions for future research

### **DISPLAY (30 POINTS)**

**i. Oral:** The core of each exhibit is a PowerPoint (or similar visual) presentation, with text and graphics intended for a more general audience. The presentation should attract attention and convey information. Language should be simple and descriptions brief. Jargon should be avoided; necessary technical terms should be defined. Spelling and grammar must be correct. All text should be large enough to be read by the audience in the presentation room. Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs should be simple, well-organized, and carefully chosen to quickly explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience.

**ii. Poster:** The core of each exhibit is a poster, with text and graphics intended for a more general audience. The poster must be mounted on the exhibit board provided and may not exceed its dimensions, which are 48 inches wide by 36-42 inches high. The poster should attract attention and convey information. Language should be simple and descriptions brief. Jargon should be avoided; necessary technical terms should be defined. Spelling and grammar must be correct. All text should be large enough to be read from a distance of 4 to 6 feet. Photographs, drawings, charts, tables, or graphs should be simple, well-organized, and carefully chosen to quickly explain complicated technical concepts to a wide audience.

### **PRESENTATION (20 POINTS)**

**i. Oral:** The oral presentation must not exceed 10 minutes including speaker introduction and 1 or 2 minutes for questions and answers at the end of presentation. Suggestion – try for 9 minutes. The oral presentation should be clear and concise, and should include the major points presented on the poster (numbers 5 through 11 above).

**ii. Poster:** Each student should have prepared an oral discussion of his or her exhibit during the designated poster session. This discussion must not exceed 5 minutes. The oral presentation should be clear and concise, and should include the major points presented above (numbers 5 through 11 above).

### **SCORING**

The presentations are graded on a raw scale of 1 (inferior) to 100 (superior). Points are earned in three areas: Content (50 points maximum), Display (30 points maximum), and Oral (20 points maximum). Students should expect that their entries are likely to be reviewed by judges from fields of study other than their own.