

AREMA Student Poster Competition
Graduate Students
September 16, 2018

2018 Guidelines for Submission of Posters

Call for Posters – Notice Required by 8/31/2018

The AREMA Student Poster Competition for Graduate Students at the AREMA Annual Conference provides an opportunity for graduate students to present posters on late-breaking results, on-going research projects, and speculative or innovative works in progress. The posters are intended to provide authors and conference attendees with the ability to connect with each other and to engage in discussions about the work, while providing the student the opportunity to practice their presentation skills.

We invite submissions relevant to the areas of railroading that AREMA technical committees represent. This includes:

- Operations
- Passenger & Transit
- Engineering Services
- Maintenance-of-Way
- Communication & Signals
- Track
- Structures

Theoretical or technical posters, reports on aforementioned areas, descriptions of completed work, and works in progress are equally welcome. Graduate students wishing to submit a capstone project for the poster competition may do so if there was a research component involved.

Participants

Graduate level work will be showcased and students will be given an opportunity to present their poster to a panel of judges. Each poster is only allowed to have one presenter during judging. The presenter is not required to be an author of the poster, but this is recommended, as judges will ask questions if time permits. The presenter must be from the submitting university.

Criteria

In order for a poster to be considered eligible for judging, it must adhere to the following:

- Entries must be submitted in full prior to the competition. This includes complete Entry Form and Poster Visual for Pre-Judging.
- The lead author of the poster must be a student. This includes submissions of multi-author posters.
- Posters should not exceed a maximum size of 36"x48" or 48"x36".
- Posters should include the essential sections required for the project.
- It is the responsibility of the poster competition entrant to print and bring their poster with them to the competition.

- Posters are hung no later than 15 minutes prior to the competition start time and remain posted until the end of the competition on the provided easels.
- The presenter must be present during an assigned time slot of 30 minutes to give a presentation to the judges. Times will be assigned within the week prior to the competition.

Judging

Each poster is only allowed to have one presenter during judging. Any one student from the submitting university may present the poster, but must be prepared to answer questions. Each presenter will have five (5) minutes during which to present their posters to the panel of judges and answer any questions from the judges. The panel of judges will include a minimum of three (3) railroad industry professionals. The judges will independently score each poster per the attached rubric.

Awards

Scoring will be completed immediately following the competition. The top three (3) posters will be announced at the end of the competition. At that time, those recognized presenters should stand next to their posters for a photo with their poster.

The top 3 posters will be given the opportunity to showcase their poster during the Monday morning coffee break at the conference. The posters to be showcased will be picked up Sunday at the end of the competition by AREMA staff and setup for the coffee break. It is recommended that the poster presenter be present with their poster during the coffee break, but this is not required. At the end of the coffee break, these posters must be picked up or they will be disposed of.

All posters not being showcased Monday must be picked up Sunday at the end of the competition or they will be disposed of.

Entries

Submissions will be limited to one poster per University for the graduate competition, for a maximum of 25 submissions. Additional submittals from each University can be placed on a waiting list to fill available openings on a case by case basis.

Entries must be submitted to the Student Chapter Coordinator at scc@arema.org by August 31, 2018 with the attached entry form. Any entries that have not submitted both the Entry Form and Poster Visual for Pre-Judging by the deadline will be removed from the competition.

Immediate notification will be sent to the first entry per university. Notice of wait list participants in the competition will be sent shortly after the deadline.

Any questions regarding the competition should be submitted to the Student Chapter Coordinator at scc@arema.org.

Poster Size		0 or 5
Poster is equal to or less than 36" x 48" regardless of orientation		
Visual Presentation		1-10
The Title is specific and informative		
The Poster is organized and easy to follow		
The text is written in clear English with proper grammar		
The poster is visually appealing, with quality graphics and photos		
Appropriate information is incorporated in each section of the poster		
The text font is appropriately sized and easy to read		
Methodology		1-10
The poster explains the design, method, data analysis, and conclusions drawn		
The methodology is relevant to the problem		
Methodology is clearly and completely explained		
Data Analysis		1-10
The poster explores the significance and limitations of the data		
The results are clearly presented in appropriate forms		
Figures and tables are organized, appropriate in size, and are easy to understand, with appropriate captions of titles		
Inconsistent results and counterevidence are considered and addressed		
The conclusions are reasonable for the data gathered		
Is the appropriate analytic tool utilized to draw the conclusions		
Poster Integrity		1-10
The abstract includes all relevant aspects of the project		
The hypothesis and objectives are clearly presented		
The rationale of the project and the relevant literature are included		
The discussion addresses the major implications of the findings		
All sources are cited correctly in the text where appropriate and the Literature Cited is complete and uses correct format		
Information is consistently presented in every part of the poster		
Original and critical thought is evident		
Material is directly applicable to the rail industry		
Material represents new and/or emerging topic/technology within the industry		
Applicability to Industry / New & Emerging Topic or Technology		1-10
Topic is relevant to the railroad industry		
Topic is a new and emerging topic or technology or currently a "hot topic" in the industry		
Oral Presentation		1-10
The presenter is confident and professional		
The presenter is knowledgeable about the information in the poster		
The presenter did not need to read off of the poster to present		
Presenter was able to address judges questions		
Oral presentation delivered in allotted time		
Total Score (max 65)		0

1 = Marginal

10 = Exceptional