



The Research Special Interest Group is pleased to announce the call for the annual graduate student research proposal competition, which will be in conjunction with the **ACE/NETC Annual Meeting June 11-14, 2012, in Annapolis MD**. Please share this call with others in your unit to make sure that all of our graduate students are notified of this opportunity.

Proposal categories:

- Graduate students may submit FULL Research proposals (maximum of 20 pages).
- Students may submit original research proposed as part of a thesis, dissertation or another research project during the academic years of 2010-2011.
- Please indicate clearly the type of proposal (thesis, dissertation, or another research project) being submitted.
- Graduate students must be listed as the principal investigator on any research proposal that is not part of a thesis or dissertation.
- Only two proposals per institution are allowed to be submitted for competition.

Submission guidelines

- **Submit electronically** in *.pdf format to Vice Chair Jason Ellis at jdellis@ksu.edu
- Proposal components include two separate documents for blind, peer review purposes. Each separate document is detailed below.
- Submissions should come from a nominating faculty member at the institution.

Document 1: Contact information

1. Principal investigator's name, mailing address, phone number, fax number, and email address; if other investigators are included in the proposal, provide all investigators' contact information.
2. Research proposal title is an accurate representation of the study.
3. **Committee Members/Co-Investigators:** Provide the full contact information of thesis or dissertation committee members, including designation of committee chair, or provide full contact information for co-investigators in other research proposals.

Document 2: Manuscript

* Please note, the researcher(s) should not be identifiable in any of these materials.

1. *Problem Statement*
 - a. Provide a statement of the situation and/or problem being proposed.
 - b. Problem statements of pertinent interest to the agricultural communications profession, including teaching, research, and outreach activities, are encouraged.
2. *Brief Background/Status of Previous Investigations*
 - a. Clearly articulate the theoretical/logical framework for your study.
 - b. Provide a brief background of previous research leading up to the proposed study.
 - c. Use correct citations (*APA Publication Manual*, 6th Edition) in the text body.
3. *Purpose and Objectives*
 - a. Describe the purpose of the proposed research study.

- b. Enumerate the research objectives necessary to complete the purpose.
 - c. If applicable, provide hypotheses to be tested.
4. *Basic Assumptions/Delimitations or Scope of Investigation*
 - a. Describe underlying assumptions/delimitations that may impact the proposed study.
 - b. Describe the scope of the investigation.
5. *Methods*
 - a. Design: Describe the proposed research design (Quantitative—quasiexperimental/experimental; Qualitative—participant observation/naturalistic/content analysis) in sufficient detail, including any threats to internal and external validity.
 - b. Population/Sample: Provide detailed descriptions of the population's characteristics, sampling procedure, sample type, and sampling error.
 - c. Instrument: Provide accurate descriptions of research instruments proposed, scales of measurement, validity (field tests, panel of experts, etc.), and reliability (post-hoc, test type—alpha, split half, etc.) tests.
 - d. Data Collection: Explain procedures for data collection including timeline, procedures for handling non-response, follow-up procedures, and expected response rates.
 - e. Data Analysis: Describe the proposed data analysis procedures or techniques for all collected data based on study design (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed method).
6. *References*
 - a. Provide a selected list of references used to develop the proposed study.
 - b. Use correct citation format (*APA Publication Manual*, 6th Edition) for reference list.
7. *Appendix*
 - a. Provide evidence that a university-issued Institutional Review Board (IRB) process was completed (IRB forms may be attached to the proposal), or provide the date when IRB approval was requested for the proposed study.
 - b. Provide sample surveys, questionnaires, interviewing protocols, etc., if appropriate for the proposed study.

Format Expectations

- Maximum of 20 pages beyond the initial Contact Information Page.
- Use *APA Publication Manual* (6th Edition) style in all situations.

Award Selection Process

Judging and selection of the outstanding proposal award recipient will be conducted independently by a committee of two active ACE Research SIG member. Faculty advisors of the nominees are ineligible to serve on the selection committee. The recipient will be notified by letter of the recognition on or before May 1, 2012. An award certificate will be presented to the recipient as well as the award recipient's faculty adviser at the ACE/NETC Annual Meeting.

We look forward to seeing you in Annapolis!

Judith White, Chair
 Jason Ellis, Vice Chair
 Courtney Meyers, Vice Chair-elect