



## 2015 NATIONAL CONTESTS

**Deadline for all Contests is January 31, 2015**

All contestants must submit their information electronically to the appropriate Contest Superintendent, **11:59 PM EST** on January 31, 2015.

1. **Conference Theme Contest**

The MANRRS Executive Committee is seeking suggestions from its members for the MANRRS 2015 Conference theme. Every MANRRS member is encouraged to enter this contest.

2. **Chapter of the Year Award**

The MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) contest was designed to promote and encourage leadership development for the members of the local chapters. Such development should further the goals and objectives of the National Society, as well as promote professional growth among its members.

3. **Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest**

These sessions provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience in orally presenting their research before an audience. The student's faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter by signing the Contest Cover Sheet. **Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Poster Research Contest.**

4. **Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest**

This contest provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience in presenting their research in poster form before an audience. The student's faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter, by signing the Contest Cover Sheet. Posters can be entered as "**Competitive**" or "**Noncompetitive.**" **Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Oral Research Contest.**

5. **National Written Essay Contest**

This contest provides an opportunity for **undergraduate** students to gain experience in expressing themselves, through writing. Essays will be judged and the winners selected, **prior** to the National Contest.

6. **National Public Speaking Contest**

This contest provides an opportunity for **undergraduate** students to gain experience in expressing themselves orally before an audience.

7. **Research Discussion Contest**

This contest is for **undergraduate and graduate** students and it focuses on improving the students' interactive communication skills. Its aim is to prepare students to effectively communicate in the work place and in leadership and management positions.

8. **Agriculture and Science Photography Contest**

This contest is open to **individuals and chapters**. The purpose of the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members and Chapters with the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and science in an artistic fashion.



## 2015 National Contest Coversheet

Please e-mail coversheet to the contest superintendent.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Current Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Advisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Research Advisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_

### MANRRS CONTEST ENTERED (*Check One*)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter of the Year                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Research Discussion Contest   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Written Essay          | <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Science Photography Contest |  |

### For Research Poster Contest (*please specify the Division*)

- |  |   |                                |
|--|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Undergraduate | <input type="checkbox"/> Graduate: M.S. | <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D. |
|--|---|--------------------------------|

### For Undergraduate Oral Research Contest (*please specify the Division*)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Division I – Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Division II - Education, Social Sciences and Business |
|--|--|

### For Graduate Oral Research Contest (*please specify the Division*)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Division I – Biological, Chemical and Physical Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Division II - Education, Social Sciences and Business |
|--|--|

### For Jr. MANRRS Contests (*please specify Contest*)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior. MANRRS Written Essay      | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior. MANRRS Public Speaking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Junior. MANRRS Impromptu Speaking |   |

### CONTESTANT:

Contestant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### CHAPTER ADVISOR:

Chapter Advisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### RESEARCH ADVISOR:

Research Advisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**By typing your name above, you are certifying that all information is accurate and factual.**



## **ABSTRACT APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

1. A completed "MANRRS Cover Sheet for Contests" must accompany each individual's packet, which includes contest abstract (if applicable).
2. Electronic submission is required for all contests, with the exception of Chapter of the Year. Packets for this contest must be POSTMARKED by the established deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup>.
3. All entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST **January 31, 2015**. Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items no later than February 4, 2015
4. Presenters are required to be undergraduate or graduate student members and must be in attendance at the conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. No waiver of conference registration fees will be granted to participants. The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter.
5. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes.
6. **PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABSTRACT GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.**  
Abstracts must be submitted electronically to the Contest Superintendent. All abstracts should be in Microsoft Word format. The Superintendent reserves the right to reject any submission if the abstract does not meet the established guidelines as shown by the sample abstract or fail to meet the minimum score required for competitive presentation. Abstracts and questions should be directed to Contest Superintendents for the appropriate Divisions.

## **ABSTRACT GUIDELINES**

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS**

1. Abstracts must be typed. Use single spacing except between title and authors and between the bodies of abstract. See attached sample abstract. Must be in Microsoft Word format. Abstract must be typed with a one-inch margin.
2. Abstracts **MUST** be submitted via e-mail. For email submissions, please use the following format for the Subject line: **Contest Name - Participant's name.**
3. Capitalize entire title as shown on the sample abstract. Type speaker's initials and surname in capital letters. For all other authors, capitalize only the initials and the first letter of the surnames. Show current mailing address for speaker. Note the author presenting the paper by an asterisk (\*) at the end of his/her full name. The College/University and location should be listed following the name. Skip one line before starting the text.



4. Abstract must be 300 words or LESS and must include:
  - a. *Introduction/statement of problem*
  - b. *Objective*
  - c. *Methodology*
  - d. *Results and Conclusion* section that includes significant findings and implications. The text should cite quantitative data from representative experiments.
5. Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in your abstract.
6. Enter three keywords as indicated in the sample abstract. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of your paper.
7. Use standard format set forth for scientific publication journals.
8. A contest cover sheet must be faxed to the contest superintendent.



## **1: Theme Contest: MANRRS 2015 Conference**

The MANRRS Executive Committee is soliciting your recommendations for the theme of the 2015, 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MANRRS Conference. Every MANRRS member is encouraged to enter this contest.

The guidelines and rules for submitting a theme are as follows:

1. All suggested themes should be related to the goals and objectives of MANRRS as the organization begins its next 30 years.
2. Only one submission per member is allowed.
3. The MANRRS member that submits the winning theme will be awarded **\$200.00**.
4. All suggestions for the theme must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST on **January 31, 2015**.
5. All suggestions should be sent via e-mail to:

**Ebony Y. Webber**

Program Committee Chair

E-mail: [exec.office@manrrs.org](mailto:exec.office@manrrs.org)

**REQUIRED:** The title of the subject line of the e-mail should be:

**Theme Contest – Participant's Name – School Name**

6. Any questions regarding this contest should be directed to Ebony Webber at (404) 347-2975.

The theme for the 2016 conference will be announced at the 2015 conference.



## **2: Chapter of the Year Award (COYA)**

### **A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) competition was designed to promote leadership development among local chapters. Such development should further the goals and objectives of the National Society as well as promote professional growth among local student members.

### **B. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:**

Based on certification by the Membership Committee Chair, each chapter awarded "**Chapter of Excellence**" is eligible to submit an entry form for the COYA competition. A new Chapter is defined as a Chapter that has been active for three years or less since the issuance of the original charter and in "**Good Standing**" during the period of activity and at the time of submission of the COYA entry form.

### **C. APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

A completed "**MANRRS Cover Sheet for 2015 National Contests**" must accompany the packet.

Report Chapter activities conducted from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Attach supporting documents as required.

Submit electronically to the Contest Superintendent by **January 31, 2015**. Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items by February 7, 2015.

Completed packets should be saved as a .pdf format.

Title subject line in message: **COYA.School Name.Year for Contest.**

### **SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:**

#### **Ebony Webber**

Chief Officer of Operations

Phone: (404) 347-2975

E-mail: [exec.office@manrrs.org](mailto:exec.office@manrrs.org)

Fax: (404) 892-9405

### **AWARDS**

Five Regional Winners - \$200 and a certificate

#### **National COYA Winner:**

\$1,000, Trophy, and John Deere bags



## **2: Chapter of the Year Award**

### **Judging Points Guidelines**

#### **A. Introduction**

MANRRS “Chapter-of-the-Year” Award (COYA) will be based on a points system. The COYA application will be divided into two categories: Club Activities and Involvement Report, and the Annual Report. The MANRRS Chapter of the Year Award (COYA) competition was designed to promote leadership development among local Chapters. Such development should further the goals and objectives of the National Society, as well as promote professional growth among local student members.

#### **B. Requirements for Entry**

Based on the certification by the Membership Committee Chair, each Chapter in “good standing”, as discussed in the Constitution, is eligible to submit an entry form for the COYA competition. A new Chapter is defined as a Chapter that has been active for three years or less, since the issuance of the original charter and in “good standing” during the period of activity and at the time of submission of the COYA entry form.

#### **C. Application Procedures**

- a. Complete the Contest Coversheet.
- b. Attach the supporting Annual Report that includes the Club Activities and Involvement Report.
- c. All entries must be RECEIVED, by January 31, 2014. Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of their participation at the National Contest by February 28, 2015.

#### **D. Regional**

Preliminary round of judging for all COYA entries shall be based on a regional competition. One judging panel shall be formed and it will comprised of three to five judges. The Judging Panel will score the entries from all six Regions. Judging of the entries will be completed by February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Chapter with the highest score in each region will be designated the “Outstanding Chapter of the Region.” All competing Chapters will receive a letter announcing the Regional COYA winners.

#### **E. National**

The Annual Report, Club Activities and Involvement Report, and the Presentation/Interviews at the National Conference will determine the National COYA winner. The finalists will be comprised of the winners from the six regions with the three highest ranked scores. This will form the New COYA competition at the national level. The score from the presentation/interview will then be added to the regional scores to determine the overall COYA winner. Finalists will be contacted regarding the process of evaluation.

#### **F. Reporting Dates**

The dates for the activities shall be from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> of the previous year. For example, the 2015 COYA will be based on the dates of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

#### **G. Club Activities and Involvement Report**

The Club Activity and Involvement Report is the Chapter's Annual Plan of Work and Calendar of Activities for the year. This report should be in chronological order and should list all activities, events, meetings that the club participated in or hosted. It can be in either list form or in calendar form.



## **2: Chapter of the Year Award**

### **Awarding of Points**

The following points are based on the typed Annual Report. The maximum amount of points a Chapter can receive is **75 points** for the **Annual Report**.

#### **A. Annual Report - 75 points**

- **Building Chapter Membership - 10 points**

Examples: Internet newsgroups, new students' night, activity fairs, etc.

1. Club Meetings - Clubs are expected to hold regular meetings throughout the year.
2. Executive Meetings - Clubs are expected to hold regular executive meetings.
3. Club Events - This category is to include any club events or activities that were hosted by the club. It could include social or professional events that the club sponsored or in which it was directly involved.
4. College Activities - These include events that were hosted by the University or College in which your Chapter participated.

- **Leadership Development-15 points**

Examples: Etiquette workshop, mentoring program, time management seminar, etc.

- **Community Service-15 points**

Examples: food drives, Adopt-A-Highway, volunteer host for the college, etc.

- **Promotion of the National Society-15 points**

Examples: chapter banquet, national conference, web pages, etc.

- **Fundraising and Financial Management-10 points**

Examples: fundraising events, grants, sponsorships, etc.

- **Annual Report Creativity-10 points**

#### **B. Oral Presentation and Interview - (25 points)**

Points will be awarded for the Presentation/Interview at the National Conference.

1. Chapters that qualify to present at the National Conference will be given the opportunity to make a presentation and answer questions at the Conference. This score will be determined by the quality of the presentation, the originality of the presentation, its content, and the responses to the questions asked. The focus of the report should be on the accomplishments of the Chapter, the activities in which its members participated during the previous year, and how the Chapter plans to continue its success.
2. The presentation will consist of a 10-minute formal presentation and a 5-minute question/answer session.

**TOTAL POINTS = 100**

(To be determined by the **Annual Report** and **Oral Presentation/Interview**, based on the above scales.)





## **2: Chapter of the Year Award**

### **C. Guidelines for the Annual Report**

A committee determined by the COYA Chair will judge the report. The Annual Reports for each club must follow these guidelines:

- 1- Contents of the Annual Report will be from January 1, 2014, to December 31, 2014.
- 2- The Annual Report will be limited to a maximum of 20-typed pages. This may include charts and pertinent pictures. Appendices with the Chapter's pictures, flyers, etc.
- 3- White background
- 4- Annual Report must be separate in a standard 8 ½" x 11" size in a single .pdf file.
- 5- Must include a cover page with the following information:
  - Chapter's Name
  - Region
  - Year of Annual Report
  - MANRRS Logo
- 6- All titles of sections must be in 14 point black font, bold, underlined.
- 7- All contents must be in 12 points black font.

### **Criteria for Judging the Annual Report**

#### **Section 1 – Building Chapter Membership (10 points)**

- Club organization – Chapter Officers
- Overview of recruitment activities
- Chart with membership by year in school and corresponding percentages (e.g. 20 freshman out of 100 members = 20%)
- Special awards for outstanding members
- Brief description of major club activities or events that define the club
- Overview of guest speakers who visited the club
- Brief summary of the program content and key points
- Number of people attending the general meetings
- Overview of communications, including newsletters, reports, and presentations about chapter activities to:
  - Student members
  - Faculty and college administrators
  - Industry and alumni

#### **Section 2 – Leadership Development (15 points)**

- Activities that promote and develop leadership among members.
- Activities that promote and develop leadership among officers.
- Activities or events that promote and develop leadership among the college and university.

#### **Section 3 – Community Service (15 points)**

- Participation in activities or events hosted by the organization.
- Participation in activities or events sponsored by the college, university, or community.



Section 4 – Promotion of the National Society (15 points)

- National Conference
- Regional Workshop
- Participation in National Offices

Section 5 – Fund Raising and Financial Management (10 points)

- Overview of fund raising activities
- Brief financial report of income, expenses, and balance

Section 6 – Organization/Creativity (10 points)

- Layout/Design/Presentation
- Clarity/Legibility
- Grammatically correct

Section 7 – Oral Presentation (25 points)

This section is to be determined by the club. It can include pictures of events, samples of newsletters, special articles written about the club, etc.; anything that you feel can help show or explain to the judges what your club is about. Pictures, flyers, etc. may be attached in the Appendix.



### **3: Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest**

#### **I. GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

These sessions provide an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain experience and exposure before an audience, while highlighting their research.

The competition is subdivided into two divisions:

- Division I – Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences
- Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business

#### **II. REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY**

Presenters are required to be undergraduate or graduate student members and must be in attendance at the conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by December 31<sup>st</sup>. No waiver of conference registration fees will be granted to contest participants. The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes. PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT. A completed "MANRRS Cover Sheet for Contests" must accompany your Abstract. Abstract must be submitted electronically to the Contest Superintendent by the deadline. All abstracts should be in Microsoft Word format. The Superintendent reserves the right to reject a submission if it does not meet the established guidelines as shown by the sample abstract.

#### **III. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

All entries must be received by 11:59 PM EST on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Participants will be notified by February 4<sup>th</sup> of the acceptance of their abstract. Contestants are asked to be familiar with their equipment and usage. A penalty (deduction of three points) will be imposed on those who do not know how to use their equipment properly. Detailed application procedures are attached.

#### **IV. AWARDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

*Abstracts and questions shall be directed to Contest Superintendents for the appropriate Division.*

<b>CONTEST JUDGES</b>	
<b>Undergraduate Division I - Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences</b>  Candiss Williams, Ph.D. USDA NRCS Phone: (402) 309-5264 Email: cwilliam78@gmail.com	<b>Undergraduate Division II - Education, Social Sciences, and Business</b>  Lorraine Weatherspoon, Ph.D. Michigan State University Phone: (517) 355-8474, ext. 136 Email: weathe43@anr.msu.edu Fax: (517) 353-8963
<b>Graduate Division I - Biological, Chemical, and Physical Sciences</b>  Jodi P. Williams, Ph.D. USDA -- National Institute of Food and Agriculture Phone: (202) 720-6145 Email: <a href="mailto:jwilliams@nifa.usda.gov">jwilliams@nifa.usda.gov</a> Fax: (202) 401-4888	<b>Graduate Division II – Education, Social Sciences, and Business</b>  Ulises Toledo, Ph.D. Douglass Land-Grant Institute - West Virginia State Univ. Phone: (304) 766-4290 Email: <a href="mailto:toledoju@wvstateu.edu">toledoju@wvstateu.edu</a> Fax: (304) 766-4292



### **3: Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest (continued)**

#### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS**

Please prepare your abstract as instructed below:

1. Abstracts must be typed. Use single spacing except between title and authors and between the bodies of the abstract. See attached sample abstract. Must be in Microsoft Word format.
2. Capitalize entire title as shown on the sample abstract.
3. Type speaker's initials and surname in capital letters. For all other authors, capitalize only the initials and the first letter of the surnames. Show current mailing address for speaker
4. Abstract must be 300 words or LESS and must include: (a) Introduction/Statement of problem, (b) Objective, (c) Methodology, and (d) Results and Conclusion, which present significant findings and implications. The text should cite quantitative data from representative experiments.
5. Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in your abstract.
6. Enter three keywords as indicated on the sample abstract. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of your paper.
7. Complete all of the preceding instructions. Abstracts must be RECEIVED electronically by 11:59 PM EST on **January 31, 2015.**
8. Abstracts must be typed with a one-inch margin. In addition, abstracts must be submitted via e-mail. For submissions, please use the following format for the Subject line:  
**Contest Name, Division, - Participant's Name.**

#### **Sample Abstract**

#### **OFFICIAL ABSTRACT FORM: 300 WORD ABSTRACT Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS)**

##### **CONSUMER PERCEPTIONS AND DEMAND FOR MUSCADINE GRAPES AS TABLE FRUIT: A SUPERMARKET STUDY**

L. THEODORE and S. Leong, Center for Viticultural Sciences, Florida A & M University, Tallahassee, FL 32307

Among the different varieties of grapes grown in Florida, the muscadine grapes are the most popular among grape growers because of their resistance to diseases and pests. They also have a unique flavor and aroma that are not found in other kinds of grapes. Unfortunately, muscadine grapes also possess certain inherent disadvantages such as a thick skin and seeds that tend to discourage some consumers from buying them. A market study was conducted at three Winn Dixie Stores in 1995, to determine consumers' perceptions of muscadines as fresh fruit, and their willingness to purchase them at various retail prices. Three hundred and fifty three supermarket customers were randomly selected to participate in the study.

The survey revealed that about 50% of the 353 consumers surveyed had a favorable perception of the muscadine taste after eating the fruit. Thirty eight percent of Blacks and 29% of Whites liked the taste and flavor. By gender, 51% of males and 24% of females liked the taste after eating the fruit. Consumers' willingness or likelihood to purchase muscadine grapes was determined by using a logit function to estimate likelihood probabilities with respect to sex, race, age and household size. The projected probabilities showed that there is a relatively good fresh fruit market potential for muscadine grapes in the local supermarket stores.

**KEY WORDS**—Muscadines, Consumer Perception, Logit Analysis

\*Abstract Source: Lucinda Theodore, First Place Winner of MANRRS 1996 Graduate Research Competition, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas.



### 3: Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest (continued)

The abstract will be evaluated prior to selecting the finalists who will compete at the National Conference. The abstract provides a brief overview of your research in no more than 300 words, arranged in a single paragraph. The abstract should briefly state the research problem, how the problem was evaluated (methods), what was observed/found (results), and how the results are related to the research problem (discussion and conclusion). The abstract should stand on its own and NOT include citations or references within the abstract.

Abstracts submitted will be evaluated by at least three judges on the content of the abstract. The abstracts will be assigned 0-50 points based on:

- (10 pt.) Proper spelling, grammar, complete sentences, readability
- (10 pt.) Well written introduction
- (10 pt.) Methods are discussed
- (10 pt.) Results are summarized
- (10 pt.) Conclusions are presented

GRADING RUBRIC FOR RESEARCH ABSTRACT	<u>6 - 10</u>	<u>1 - 5</u>	<u>0</u>
	Fully meets all requirements and expectations	Partially meets requirements	Does not meet minimum requirements
<b>Mechanics.</b> The abstract contains proper spelling, grammar, complete sentences, syntax, diction, and is readable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains no spelling, usage, grammar, or mechanics mistakes.</li> <li>• Defines all acronyms except the very common ones.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains two or fewer mistakes in grammar, usage, spelling, or mechanics.</li> <li>• Contains one or more undefined acronym or key terms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains three or more mistakes</li> <li>• Contains numerous undefined terms.</li> </ul>
<b>Introduction.</b> The abstract briefly states the subject of investigation purpose of project and its context.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives concise, thorough introduction to provide context and background of project.</li> <li>• Includes statement of the problem being studied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not define key terms or uses them incorrectly.</li> <li>• Does not give enough information or provides unclear context or background.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains no introduction.</li> <li>• Starts with either methods or results.</li> </ul>
<b>Methods.</b> The abstract identifies how the problem was studied and defines all jargon or acronyms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discusses what tests/ procedures were used in an organized, clear, and concise manner.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discusses methods, but is disorganized, vague, or verbose, or uses lots of jargon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contains no discussion of the method or procedure.</li> </ul>
<b>Results.</b> The abstract has provided an explanation of what was discovered or produced using concise, and specific detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refers and connects results to the methods.</li> <li>• Presents results independently of methods.</li> <li>• Gives a justification if no data/results are possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Merely states results [Qualitatively].</li> <li>• If no results are possible, then only says "No results."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gives no results or doesn't even mention results.</li> </ul>
<b>Conclusion.</b> The abstract interprets the results, evaluates what the results mean to the project, and defines the context within the field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly interprets results and concisely reflects the purpose of the investigation.</li> <li>• Suggests further work (if applicable).</li> <li>• Provides meaning and context to work.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflects the purpose or only suggests further research without providing context.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides no conclusion.</li> </ul>



### 3: Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Presentation Rubric

Category	0-3	4-6	7-8	9-10	SCORE
<b>Abstract</b>	Unable to connect abstract to oral presentation.	Somewhat able to see connection of abstract to presentation. Abstract did not contain sufficient support of topic.	Abstract adequately presented purpose of study. More information would have been beneficial.	Abstract strongly presented the purpose of the study. Clearly supported topic presented and contained important points.	<b>Abstract</b>
<b>Content</b>	Presentation did not convey development of argument, ideas, or point of research.	Development and support of ideas/argument difficult to follow and understand. Either points did not sufficiently relate to topic or presenter got off topic.	Sufficient development and support of ideas/argument. Most topic points shared were understood.	Strong material. Clear development and support of ideas/argument. Presenter clearly shared supporting points. Points appear to be accurate.	<b>Content</b>
<b>Preparedness</b>	Not prepared.	Somewhat prepared, but clear that rehearsal was lacking.	Relatively prepared, but more rehearsal would have been beneficial.	Completely prepared and obviously rehearsed.	<b>Preparedness</b>
<b>Visual Support</b>	Did not use visual aid OR use of visual aid was ineffective.	Use of visual aid was not clearly effective or supportive of material presented.	Effectively utilized visual aid which improved presentation of material.	Utilized visual support that showed considerable work and greatly enhanced presentation.	<b>Visual Support</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	Presenter did not connect with audience. Speaking volume was monotone or audience unable to hear speaker clearly.	Adequate posture and eye contact. Speaking volume was inconsistent.	Presenter mostly had good posture and eye contact. Volume could probably be heard by most of audience.	Presenter was poised, confident, and established eye contact with audience. Speaking volume clearly loud enough to be heard by all.	<b>Presentation</b>
<b>Total scores in right column to obtain total score (Maximum total of 50)</b>					

**4: Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest****GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

This session provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to gain experience and exposure before an audience, while highlighting the research in which they are currently involved. The student's faculty Research Advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Posters can be entered as "Competitive" or "Non-Competitive." Entries cannot be duplicated and entered in the Student Oral Research Contest.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Presenters are required to be graduate or undergraduate student members at the time of the conference and must be in attendance at the conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national membership register by **January 31, 2015**. There will be no waiver of conference registration fees for participants.

Ph.D. candidates will be allowed to compete competitively in the Poster Contest. A Power Point of the poster's graphics will also need to be submitted the contest superintendent.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

The deadline for entries is **11:59 PM EST** on **January 31, 2015**. All entries must be submitted, as instructed on the Student Research Poster Contest Abstract Form. Selected contest participants will be notified by February 15, 2015.

**AWARDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

**E-mail entries to:**

**Colmore Christian, Ph.D.**

MANRRS Forestry, Ecology and Wildlife Program

Alabama A&M University

Tel. 256-372-4335

Fax: 256-372-8404

Email: [colmore.christian@aamu.edu](mailto:colmore.christian@aamu.edu)





#### **4: Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster**

##### **RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION:**

The MANRRS research poster competition contains two symposiums:

- Undergraduate Symposium – all undergraduate students
- Graduate Symposium – all students pursuing master's and doctoral students

##### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The research poster competition provides an opportunity for graduate (master's and doctoral) and undergraduate students to highlight the research in which they are currently involved. The student's faculty research advisor must certify that the research is the work of the presenter. Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Student Oral Research Contest.

##### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

Presenters are required to be student members of MANRRS by the competition submission deadline and must be in attendance at the conference. Entrants' names must appear on the national membership register by **December 31**. There will be no waiver of conference registration fees for participants.

##### **COMPETITION/SYMPOSIUM GUIDELINES:**

The graduate and undergraduate research poster competitions are judged separately by independent judges. After the submission deadline, abstracts in each competition are evaluated, and the top 10 abstracts in each competition proceed to the national competition. The national conference features two sections for research posters:

- **Competitive Division:** Features the top 10 submitted abstracts/posters from the undergraduate and graduate competitions. Participants will be scheduled a time to present their information. Presenters in this division are eligible for cash prizes.
- **Non-Competitive Division:** This symposium is designed for research poster submissions that do not make the top 10 in their respective competitions. This division provides a forum for students to get feedback from professionals and peers. Participants will be scheduled a time to present their information. Participants in this division are not eligible for cash prizes.

##### **ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS:**

Abstracts must be prepared according to the general guidelines for MANRRS abstract submissions. Specifically, research poster abstracts must meet the following criteria:

- Abstracts must be typed, using single spacing except between title and authors and between the bodies of abstract. One-inch margin are required.
- Capitalize the entire project title. Type presenter's initials and surname in capital letters. For all other authors, capitalize only the initials and the first letter of the surnames. Show current mailing address for presenter. Note the author presenting the paper by an asterisk (\*) at the end of his/her full name. The College/University and location should be listed following the name.
- Abstract must be 300 words or LESS and must include:
  - Introduction/statement of problem
  - Objective
  - Methodology
  - Results and Conclusion, which states significant findings and implications.
- Abstract text should cite quantitative data from representative experiments.
- Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in the abstract.
- Enter three keywords to describe the project. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of the paper.
- Abstracts must be typed and submitted in Microsoft Word format. The abstract should stand on its own and NOT include citations or references. Abstracts will be evaluated by a panel of judges. Abstracts are scored on a 0-25 scale.

##### **Guidelines for MANRRS 2015 Contests**





#### **4: Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster**

##### **POSTER REQUIREMENTS:**

Posters must be prepared according to the following general guidelines:

- The posters are to be no larger than **4 feet high by 6 feet wide**.
- The poster must be carefully planned, clear and concise. It should contain a brief statement of the purpose of the work, experimental methodology and design, and the major results of the findings and their implications.
- A label showing the title, authors and sponsoring institution must be positioned at the top of the poster. Lettering for the heading must be at least 1 inch in height. Lettering for authors, and sponsoring institution must be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch high. All other type must be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch high. The poster must be readable from a distance of 4 or more feet. The text should be printed from a laser printer, in a font size large enough to read from that distance. When preparing the poster, do not use free hand printed lettering.
- Numerals and letters, included in the figures and tables, must be at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch high. The final size any figure or table will depend on the complexity of the information, but it should not be less than 8" x 10".
- Back lighted photographs, sound or projection equipment, freestanding displays are prohibited.

These requirements are for both the competitive and non-competitive divisions. Posters in the competitive division are scored on a 0-75 scale. Presenters DO NOT submit a copy of the poster with the initial submission.

##### **CONFERENCE SYMPOSIUM TIPS:**

- Presenters are assigned an ID number. At the conference symposium, posters are to be placed on the display stand corresponding to the presenter's ID number. Display stands are provided. DO NOT print the ID number on the actual poster.
- Presenters must provide their own materials, such as "dots" with adhesive on one side and Velcro on the other, stick pins or any other materials needed to set up their poster. The contest superintendent will NOT provide supplies.
- Presenters must be sure to have all their materials prepared before they leave home. The time allocated during the conference is not the appropriate time for preparing or designing the poster.
- Presenters should not stand directly in front of their poster, please allow viewing space for spectators and judges.
- Presenters should carry their poster using tubular packaging or a portfolio case. It is not a good idea to mail posters to the conference, to avoid potential damages to the poster.
- Presenters must come prepared with any relevant handouts they may wish to share (such as a copy of the poster printed on 8.5" x 11" paper) and business cards.
- Presenters must be prepared with a (brief) one and a half minute overview and discussion of their project.

##### **ENTRY INFORMATION:**

After the submission deadline, all submissions will be reviewed by the contest superintendent, who reserves the right to reject any abstract submission. The main criteria that will be considered by the contest superintendent when reviewing abstracts for acceptance are:

1. Strict adherence to formatting guidelines
2. A minimum of two authors in the author block (a submission with one author will result in an automatic rejection)
3. Demonstration of a scientific problem (submissions must contain hypothesis and/or statement of problem, methods/methodology used, the results, and a conclusion)
4. Writing quality



#### 4: Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster

All decisions of the contest superintendent are final. There is no appeal process or opportunity to resubmit once an abstract is rejected. Therefore, students are encouraged to closely follow the instructions and view the sample abstract in the contest guidelines prior to submission. After the initial review, abstracts are then forwarded to the respective judges.

##### **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:**

The deadline for entries is **11:59 pm EST** on the submission date. The following information must be submitted via EMAIL ONLY to the contest superintendent:

- Contest Coversheet in PDF Format
- Poster Abstract in Microsoft Word Format

Submissions not submitted in these formats will not be accepted nor will late submissions be accepted. Errors in submission (i.e. submitted entry to wrong contest superintendent) or other excuses (i.e. my advisor was not available) are not valid. All entries must be submitted by the deadline.

Abstracts and coversheets **MUST** be submitted via e-mail. For email submissions, please use the following format for the Subject line: **Contest Name - Participant's name**. Only student entry can be submitted in an email.

Faxed submissions will NOT be accepted.



## **5: National Written Essay Contest**

### **GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing. Essays will be judged and winners selected prior to the conference.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:**

The national essay contest will be open to undergraduate students who are current members of MANRRS through chapter membership or individual membership. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. A completed "MANRRS Cover Sheet for Contests" must accompany each entry.

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURES:**

All entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST on **January 31, 2015**. Electronic submission is required. Detailed application procedures are attached. All entries must be submitted as instructed on the attached page. In addition, essays must be submitted via e-mail with the essay topic and contestant name on the subject line. Participants will be notified upon receipt of their packets. Only faxes for contest coversheets will be accepted. Submit entries and any questions to the contest superintendent.

### **AWARDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

### **SUPERINTENDENT**

**Sonia G. Morales Osegueda, Ph.D.**

Extension Educator & Faculty

Agriculture/4-H Youth Development

WSU Cooperative Extension, King County

Phone (206) 205-3133; FAX (206) 296-0952

E-mail: [sgmorales@wsu.edu](mailto:sgmorales@wsu.edu)



## 5: National Written Essay Contest

### Instructions for Preparation of Essays

- Develop a clear, concise, and well-thought-out essay. All essays shall be written on the following topic: *“Thirty Years of Triumph: Branching Out and Excelling to Greater Heights!”*
- Essays should be typewritten with one-inch margins and sent to the Contest Superintendent. Essays must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST **January 31, 2015.**
- Submit the Contest Cover Sheet as the title page. For electronic submissions, Cover Sheets can be faxed and must include the advisor’s signature.
- For submissions, please use the following format for the Subject line: **Contest Name - Participant’s name.**  
To assure anonymity in reviewing, repeat only the title at the top of the first page. Number the pages of the essay. The body of the essay is limited to six (6) typewritten, double-spaced pages. The title page (cover sheet) and the references or endnotes pages are not included as one of the pages.
- Appropriate documentation must appear in the text citing ideas and statements, which are not the author’s. Use one of the manuals below and indicate in the reference section which manual was used.
- A minimum of three references should be used.
- APA - American Psychological Association Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.
- MLA - Modern Language Association Manual for Term Papers or Documents.
- K. L. Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations

### Judging

Essays will be judged on the basis of style and content (opening and closing paragraphs, clarity of expression, logic, and references). A copy of the judge’s score sheet is enclosed. Three to five professionals shall serve as judges. All essays will be sent to judges for evaluation. Names of author (cover sheet) will be removed and each paper assigned a number. Judges will score contestants as noted in these guidelines and return score sheets to the Contest Superintendent for final ranking.

### Scoring/Ranking

Each judge will rank the essays in numerical order (i.e., 1 = first place, 2 = second place...). In case of a tie in the ranking, the contestant who has the highest grand total shall be rated higher. The winners will be announced at the Awards Ceremony during the National Conference.

**5: National Written Essay Contest****NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET**

<b>Contestant's Name:</b>		
	Maximum Points	Points Received
Content Related to Topic	<b>10</b>	
Style	<b>10</b>	
Opening Paragraph	<b>10</b>	
Organization and Logic	<b>30</b>	
Clarity of Expression	<b>30</b>	
Use of References	<b>10</b>	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Rank of Contestant:</b>		
<b>Judge's Comments:</b>		

**National Essay Contest Explanation of Point System**

1. Content related to topic includes the appropriateness of the essay's content to the topic selected and the extent to which the author addressed the topic selected. **(10 points)**
2. Style includes the adherence to the rules of style listed in the Rules for Essay Preparation and Submission. **(10 points)**
3. Opening paragraph includes how well the opening catches the attention of the reader and how it leads into the body of the essay. **(10 points)**
4. Organization and logic includes the organization of the content, unity of thought, logical development, language used, sentence structure, accomplishment of purpose/conclusions, and material related to subtopic. **(30 points)**
5. Clarity of expression includes the clarity and conciseness of writing; conveyance of thought and meaning; the extent to which the essay was interesting, understandable, convincing, enjoyable, and held the reader's attention. **(30 points)**
6. Use of references includes the importance and appropriateness of the references, suitability of the material used, and the accuracy of the statements included. **(10 points)**



## 6: National Public Speaking Contest

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This session provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to gain experience in expressing themselves verbally before an audience.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY

The national public speaking contest will be open to undergraduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or individual membership. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the Executive Office by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**.

### APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- A. All speeches must pertain to the 2015 conference theme: ***"Thirty Years of Triumph: Branching Out and Excelling to Greater Heights!"*** Complete and include an accurate bibliography to the Contest Superintendent with the submission of your speech. Entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST on **January 31, 2015**. Electronic submission is required.
- B. For electronic submissions, please use the following format for the Subject line: **Contest Name, - Participant's name.**
- C. The electronic submission should include a Microsoft word version of the speech, contest coversheet, bibliography, and an electronic link to the uploaded video of your presentation.
- D. A completed contest cover sheet must accompany the entry. Cover Sheets can be scanned or faxed and must include the advisor's signature.

### AWARDS

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

### Submit entries to:

**Wash A. Jones, Ph.D.**

College of Agriculture and Human Sciences

Prairie View A & M University

Mail Stop 2002, Post Office Box 519

Prairie View, Texas 77446

Phone: 936-261-2538

Fax: 936-261-2548

E-mail: [wajones@pvamu.edu](mailto:wajones@pvamu.edu)



## 6: National Public Speaking Contest

### Guidelines for Video Submission of Speech

1. Before the contest deadline date, be sure to set up a YouTube, Vimeo, etc. account. Make sure that you figure out how to upload videos to the site you choose.
2. Send a link of the uploaded video to friends and family to make sure that it works.
3. For your video, you'll need a stop watch, camera, and tripod.
4. Keep the camera view wide enough to see your entire body and the equipment involved through the full range of motion.
5. Some cameras only shoot for 12 minutes at a time. This should be sufficient enough to record the speech since the time limited to eight minutes. Make sure that your camera doesn't stop during the middle of your speech.
6. Find someone who has experience with YouTube or Vimeo to help show you the ropes.
7. HD video creates large files. You may need to compress them (not edit) to a smaller format for some internet sites.
8. Please be sure to state your name and university before your speech.

### EXPLANATION OF POINT SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

1. Power of expression includes: fluency, emphasis, directness, sincerity, communicative ability, conveyance of thought and meaning. **(30 points)**
2. **Voice** includes: quality, pitch, articulation, pronunciation, force. **(10 points)**
3. **Stage presence** includes: personal appearance, poise and body posture, attitude, confidence, personality, and ease before the audience. **(30 points)**
4. **General effect** includes: extent to which the speech was interesting, understandable, convincing, pleasing, and held the attention of the audience; and provided evidence of purpose. **(15 points)**
5. **Response to questions** includes: ability to answer the questions\* related to the speech, which are asked **only** by the judges, indicating originality, familiarity with subject, and ability to think quickly. **(15 points)**

***\*NOTE: Judges will meet prior to the contest to prepare and clarify the types of questions to be asked.***



## **6: National Public Speaking Contest**

### **Guidelines for Scoring**

#### **I. Time Limit**

Each speech shall be limited to **eight minutes**, and two minutes will be allotted for questions from the judges. The Contest Superintendent shall introduce the contestants by name and institution. The contestant will introduce the speech by title only. Contestants will be penalized 20 points per minute, or any fraction thereof, for speaking over 8 minutes. Time commences when the speaker begins talking. The total time allotted for the speech and questions shall not exceed 10 minutes.

#### **II. Method of Selecting Winners:**

- The judges will be furnished with copies of the contestants' manuscripts and electronic links to view speeches, prior to the conference. The judges will score the essay based on content related to the topic, writing style, opening paragraph, organization and logic, clarity of expression, and use of references.
- A contestant needs to score a minimum of 80 points on both his/her essay and speech to be considered for the final round. A committee will select six finalists from the pool of contestants scoring more than 80 points on their essay and speech individually.
- Judges shall return their preliminary scores to the Contest Superintendent by **February 26, 2015**. Contestants will be notified, by **March 1, 2015** if they have qualified to compete at the National Training Conference and Career Fair.
- The final round of judging shall be conducted at the National Training Conference and Career Fair by professional members.
- Attendance shall be open to the general body. No individual may enter or leave the room during a presentation.
- Contestants shall draw to determine the order of presentation. A contestant shall be permitted to use notes while speaking, but if this practice detracts from the effectiveness of the presentation, deductions in the score may be made.
- Contestants shall be seated outside of the room, until they are called upon to present.
- Two timekeepers shall be designated to record the length of the presentation.
- Judges will score the contestants on the delivery of their speeches.
- Individuals from the contestants' schools will not be allowed to ask questions or judge the contestants. Judges from the same region as the contestants will not be allowed to score or ask questions of contestants from their region.
- Each contestant shall be scored based on his/her ability to respond to the questions and the perceived quality of the response.
- The winner will be invited to present his/her speech during the Gala Dinner.

#### **III. Procedures for Scoring/Ranking of Contestants**

When all contestants have finished speaking, each judge, without consultation, will total the scores and provide a ranking (1 = first place, 2 = second place). The scores then will be given to the Contest Superintendent, who will consult the timekeepers' records, to determine the final ranking of the contestants. In the case of a tie, the contestant, who has the highest grand total, shall be rated higher.



**6: NATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST****JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET**

<b>Contestant's Name</b>		
<b>Written Presentation</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
Content related to topic	10	
Style	10	
Opening paragraph	10	
Organization and logic	30	
Clarity of expression	30	
Use of references	10	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	
<b>Rank of Contestant</b>		
<b>Oral Presentation</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Points Received</b>
Power of expression	30	
Voice	10	
Stage presence	30	
General effect	15	
Response to questions	15	
<b>TOTAL POINTS</b>	<b>100</b>	
<i>*less deduction for exceeding time limit</i>		
<b>CUMULATIVE POINTS</b>	<b>200</b>	
<b>RANK OF CONTESTANT</b>		
<b>JUDGE'S COMMENTS:</b>		

\*TIME PENALTY: 20 POINTS WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR EACH MINUTE, OR FRACTION THEREOF, OVER THE TIME LIMIT



## **7: National Research Discussion Contest**

### **A. GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

The Research Discussion Contest is an interactive opportunity designed for helping students learn and demonstrate effective skills in an oral research-oriented discussion. This structured discussion is designed to integrate research content, knowledge of applied research methodologies, effective oral communication skills, critical thinking, and social-business courtesies--all skills that are important to careers in industry, higher education and the professions.

The national research discussion contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or individual membership. Entrants' names must appear on the national register in the office of the membership chair by **January 31st**.

### **B. APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

The general conference theme is: ***“Thirty Years of Triumph: Branching Out and Excelling to Greater Heights!”***

The contest theme is: **“TBA”**

### **AWARDS**

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$300; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$200; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$100

#### **Contest Superintendent:**

**Curtis White, Ph.D.**

Phone: (864) 650-8427

Email: [cdwhite@clermson.edu](mailto:cdwhite@clermson.edu)



## 7: National Research Discussion Contest

### PART ONE

#### I. Instructions for Submitting Essays

Graduate and undergraduate students preparing for careers in industry and institutions of higher education must understand and know how research is integrated into their field of study. Students have access to numerous opportunities to participate in research activities that strengthen the students' skills in conducting and applying research. Their universities also are interested in increasing the number of underrepresented students who will acquire strong skills, knowledge, and background to prepare the students for research careers and enhance their completion of graduate degrees.

Contest requirements for **Part 1** ask that participants **identify and interview** a research faculty member in their career field at their institution. The interview should be summarized in an essay encapsulating the answers to the following questions:

- ❖ Characterize research activities in this field.
- ❖ Identify the individual by name, title, institution, and contact information. This information is not to be included in the essay word count.
- ❖ **Briefly** describe the research area of the person that you have chosen to interview. Your weighted essay must include a summary of your interview discussion with this individual.
- ❖ Provide examples of how research in this field has been applied in education, industry, and/or outreach.
- ❖ Explain how the research activities of the person that you interviewed enhanced their career and/or professional activities.

#### **Please prepare your essay as instructed below:**

Essays must be typed. Use single spacing except between title and body of the paper. Each page should have a one-inch margin on all sides.

1. Capitalize entire title.
2. Essays must be a minimum of 750 words and no more than two (2) pages and must include:
  - a. An introductory paragraph
  - b. Body of the paper
  - c. Concluding paragraph.
3. Please do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations, or references in your essay.
4. Include your first name, middle initial and surname and current mailing address at the end of the paper.
5. Your essay and contest cover sheet should be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST, **January 31, 2015.**

**7: National Research Discussion Contest****Essays will be judged based on the following criteria:**

Content as identified above:	(100 points) _____
Opening paragraph	(75 points) _____
Organization and logic	(100 points) _____
Clarify of expression	(50 points) _____
Closing paragraph	(75 points) _____
<b>Total Points</b>	(400 points) _____

Rank of Contestant \_\_\_\_\_

**II. PART TWO**

1. Preliminary judges will score the essays and select five (5) to twelve speakers from the pool of essay contestants. **Contest will only be held if five (5) or more applications are RECEIVED by the deadline.**
2. Judges will provide contestant names to Contest Superintendent by February 26, 2015.
3. Contestants will be notified via e-mail, by **March 1, 2015** followed by written confirmation informing them that they have been selected to compete at the National Training Conference and Career Fair. The packet will also include no more than three (3) research articles to be reviewed and three (3) questions for discussion.
4. Contestants will engage in a structured discussion of one of the questions based on the three research articles that have been sent to them. Contest participants are encouraged to read other related research- based material in preparation for the Contest. The contest will be held on Saturday morning.
5. Attendance will be open to the general body of conference attendees.
6. Contestants are permitted to make notes during the contest but are not permitted to use prepared notes or references while participating in the contest.
7. Contestants will be seated together during the contest.
8. Contest volunteers include timekeeper, judges, and a moderator.

**Procedures for Scoring/Ranking of National Contestants:**

At the conclusion of the contest, the judges will, without consultation, individually total their scores and then consult with each other to arrive at first, second and third place winners.

**Introduction:** Since its inception, MANRRS has emphasized the importance of the need for strong, effective communication skills. It has coupled this with an equal commitment to help students learn how to process research information as a necessary component to professional and academic excellence. Other conference activities--graduate and undergraduate oral research presentations, speech contests and poster presentations--give excellent individual opportunities to students.

**Guidelines for MANRRS 2015 Contests**



### **7: National Research Discussion Contest**

1. The **RESEARCH DISCUSSION CONTEST** focuses on interactive communication processes further preparing undergraduates and graduates for the real world work place, leadership and management activities. The RESEARCH DISCUSSION CONTEST complements the existing programs and takes the participants to a higher level of competence in oral communications, critical thinking and ability to handle information.
2. **GOAL:** To provide opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to enhance and display oral communication skills in a friendly, competitive and structured discussion contest.
3. To encourage participants to learn more about current research issues and topics.
4. To encourage students to develop skills in presenting researched information in interactive settings.
5. The RESEARCH DISCUSSION CONTEST will involve five to 12 participants in a structured group activity; however, participants will be judged on individual performance.
6. Selected research material will be made available to the participants in advance. Discussion participants will be selected through an essay competition as determined by preliminary judges. Three (3) research discussion questions derived from the reading material will be provided to the contestants in advance. Students will prepare to discuss all three questions. Participants are free to do research and study other materials on the topic to better prepare them for discussing the topic.
7. One of the questions will be identified **at the start of the conference contest** as the topic to be discussed during the competition. The participants will discuss the topic of the day in the time allotted. Discussion period is 30 minutes. Individual performance will be judged against pre-determined criteria including: mastery of the subject matter, ability to remain focused, verbal communication skills, communication courtesies, diction, grammar, and interactive skills.
8. **Benefits to Participants:**
  - a. Improved ability to read, understand and handle academic and research information.
  - b. Improved levels of confidence in discussing information in public places, with peers and employers.
  - c. Improved diction, word power, enunciation, critical thinking, and articulation skills.
  - d. Improved ability to speak succinctly, conveying ideas effectively.
  - e. Improved ability to engage in the discussion of important information.
  - f. Development of important social/business skills -- communication courtesies, taking turns in conversation, disagreeing without being disagreeable, questioning, probing the thoughts of others effectively.



## 7: National Research Discussion Contest

### CONTEST RATING SHEET

#### Individual Summary

PARTICIPANT'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

				TOPIC: _____ _____ _____ Superior--- 5; Excellent---4; Good---3; Fair---2; Poor---1				
				<b>(1) DEFINITION OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM:</b> Importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem				
				<b>(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM:</b> Does contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts. Data were interpreted properly.				
				<b>(3) PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH MATERIAL AND PROBLEM SOLVING:</b> Ability of contestant to present and discuss information in a logical flow and begin to move toward problem solving approaches or increased understanding of the problem.				
				<b>(4) DELIVERY:</b> Voice quality, projection, clear enunciation, friendly and interactive, desirable sentence structure and vocabulary.				
				<b>(5) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE:</b> Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, Minimizing major differences, respect for other participants.				
				<b>(6) TOTAL EFFECTIVENESS:</b> A general evaluation of overall problem-solving performance by the contestant.				



## Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

				<b>(7) QUALITY OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE:</b> Knowledge, relevance, confidence, and interactive ability.				
				<b>(8) TOTAL:</b> Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by the judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by the judge.				
				RANK				

**COMMENTS:** Briefly summarize strengths and opportunities for improvements.



## 8: Agriculture and Science Photography Contest

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members and Chapters with the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and science in an artistic fashion. The Contest will also allow for individuals and Chapters to compete at the National level in a friendly and competitive atmosphere for all to enjoy.

### WHO MAY ENTER/ELIGIBILITY:

- This Contest is open to the following:
  - MANRRS Graduate, Undergraduate and Junior. MANRRS members and MANRRS Chapters
  - Students and Chapters must be nationally registered
  - Chapters must have submitted the proper documentation to qualify as a *Chapter of Excellence*.
- Only one entry per MANRRS Chapter may be submitted in a given year.
- Only one entry per MANRRS member may be submitted in a given year.
  - Exception: If a student has submitted an entry as a part of his/her Chapter's submission, he/she is still eligible to submit a photo as an individual student member for that given year.

### HOW TO ENTER:

- All photographs, along with the MANRRS Agricultural and Science Photography Contest entry form MUST be submitted to the MANRRS Photo Contest e-mail, [manrrsphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:manrrsphotocontest@gmail.com) no later than January 31, 2015 at 11:59pm EST.
  - **Note: Photographs submitted through the mail will NOT be accepted.**
- Photographs must be in one of the following formats:
  - .jpeg .jpg or .gif
- Please include an electronic signature at the bottom of the entry form containing the member's name for individual submissions or the Chapter advisor's name for Chapter submissions.
- The MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest officials reserve the right to reject photographs not submitted by the January 31, 2015 at 11:59 pm EST deadline. Also, photographs accompanied by unsigned entry forms will not be accepted.
- All photographs submitted must be the work of the individual MANRRS member or of the Chapter entering the Contest. Plagiarism is prohibited and violations of any copyright laws will result in disqualification from the contest.

### ENTRY DEADLINE:

- All entries (photograph and entry form), must be received at [manrrsphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:manrrsphotocontest@gmail.com) by **January 31, 2015 at 11:59 pm EST.**
- A complete entry includes the following material/information:
  - Photograph for submission in the proper format ([.jpeg .jpg or .gif](#))
  - Signed/initialed photo release information
  - Complete general entry form

### PRIZES:

- The overall first place **individual winner** will have his/her winning photograph published on the front cover of MANRRS 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Magazine.
- The overall first place **Chapter winner** will have their winning photograph published on the back cover of the MANRRS 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Magazine.
- The first and second runner up photograph will be published within the MANRRS 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Magazine. Winners shall be notified at least two weeks prior to the 3<sup>th</sup> Annual Career Fair and Training Conference.
- Certificates of excellence will be provided to the winners at the conference. No prize transfer, assignment, or substitution by winners permitted.

### Guidelines for MANRRS 2015 Contests



**PHOTOGRAPH REQUIREMENTS/GUIDELINES:**

- All photographs entered must be the work of the individual MANRRS student or the MANRRS Chapter submitting the entry.
- Photographs must be submitted under one of the following categories/themes:
  - **Category A:** *“Thirty Years of Triumph: Branching Out and Excelling to Greater Heights!”* (2015 Conference Theme)
  - **Category B:** Changing the Face of Agriculture While Linking Hands Around the World (MANRRS Motto)
  - **Category C:** What is the meaning of MANRRS?
- Photographs CANNOT be entered in more than one of the above categories.
- Photographs must be in one of the following formats:
  - .jpeg .jpg or .gif
- Photographs may be in color OR black-and-white. Photos may be of any **standard size** smaller than or equal to 8 ½ x 11.
- Entry prints may be made from negatives, slides, APS film or digital media.
- Photographs MUST be submitted as an attachment and not embedded in a document. They are NOT to be accompanied by any written work except for the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest General Entry Form and Photo Release information.
- All entries must be submitted **NO LATER** than **January 31, 2015 by 11:59 PM EST** to **manrrsphotocontest@gmail.com**. Entries received later than this date will NOT be accepted.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

- MANRRS professional members, sponsors, and advisory board members, not associated with any Photography Contest participants, will serve as judges for the MANRRS Agriculture and Science Photography Contest.
- While adhering to the rules that are provided in the document, it may be the first step for entry into the contest, there are many other factors that guide the judges in deciding which photos are worthy of awards. This criteria include:
  - **Relevancy to Category Topic in which photograph is submitted** - Is the photo an obvious illustration of the category in which it is entered? (i.e.; *“Thirty Years of Triumph: Branching Out and Excelling to Greater Heights,”* “Changing the Face of Agriculture While Linking Hands Around the World,” “What is the meaning of MANRRS?”
  - **Composition/Arrangement/Quality of image** – If there are objects in the photograph, are the objects arranged in a meaningful, pleasing manner or are they “haphazard?” Did the photographer use the best angle or otherwise interesting perspective?
  - **Focus/Sharpness** - Is the object of the photograph in focus? Is the photograph in focus? If not in sharp focus, does it appear to be an intentional effect to enhance the image in some “artistic” way?
  - **Lighting** - Did the photographer use proper lighting of the subject matter? Do any extremes of darkness or brightness lend to or detract from the image content?
  - **Creativity** - Does the photographer show some creative thought or an original idea in the making of this image?

**Additional information:**

One suggested resource for learning more about taking quality and meaningful photographs is as follows:

- **Kodak.com's "Taking Great Pictures"** site at:  
<http://www.kodak.com/US/en/nav/takingPics.shtml>

**Questions:** Please contact the MANRRS Photography Contest chairs at the following email address: [manrrsphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:manrrsphotocontest@gmail.com).