Student Collaborative Research Project 2017

Transcending Boundaries: Real-World Solutions

Alpha Chi invites collaborative research projects from Alpha Chi student researchers addressing the topic Transcending Boundaries: Real-World Solutions. Each team will define and narrow the focus and scope of the topic, depending on the majors and research interests of the team members, and then conduct both secondary and original research.

Here are some possible topics, to illustrate the diversity of topics which might emerge from this competition:

- Team members from education, sociology, and public policy might research cultural attitudes affecting retention and literacy among a city’s population groups and methods of transcending the boundaries between various groups to effect change.
- Team members from history, English, and political science might research the historical events that contextualize the literature of the boundary between Mexico and the US, perhaps researching *corridos*, for example.
- Team members from the physical and the life sciences might explore new strategies of mapping the human genome and its implications for real-world applications.

Collaborative research will benefit:

Your student researchers—improving their critical thinking and social interaction skills;
Your campus—maximizing research talent and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration; and
Our society—resulting from robust creativity research.

Prize
A panel of judges will review all entries to name the Student Collaborative Research Prize recipient at Alpha Chi’s national convention. The winning team will receive a $5,000 prize sponsored by Alpha Chi’s partner Nationwide®.

Process Overview
Each research team will identify a real-world problem, formulate a hypothesis, and conduct the necessary research. A research report of no more than ten pages will be submitted for review prior to the convention. Findings will be displayed at the convention on a printed poster to be hung on a 4 x 4 ft. poster wall and discussed in a 10-minute oral presentation before a panel of judges.

Requirements

- Each chapter may submit one project to the competition. The project should be mentored by a faculty member committed to its success. The team should also communicate regularly with its chapter sponsor.
- Each team must consist of 3-5 Alpha Chi student members, representing at least 3 different academic departments on the campus. The team composition must be at least 2/3 students who are undergraduates in the fall 2016 semester. As long as student members serve as principal researchers, one faculty member may serve as part of the research team. Each member’s part in the research project should be carefully documented.
- To enter the competition, a team representative must email a formal project title and an abstract to office@alphachiheron.org by no later than Dec. 31. This email should include a list naming the Alpha Chi members on the team, their classifications, and the academic fields they represent.
- Each team must send at least one student team member to the national convention in Louisville to present the project’s results. The competition consists of three elements: (1) a written research report of no more than 10 pages to be emailed (address above) by March 15; (2) a printed poster to be hung by Thursday at 5 p.m.; and (3) a 12-minute oral presentation on Friday which should include a single PowerPoint slide of the poster, for visibility and ease of reference. (Teams will be contacted with a presentation time.)
Collaborative Research Project Rubric

Name of School or Team: ____________________________  _____ / 100 POINTS

Presentation Title: ________________________________  _____ / 40 POINTS

Judge: __________________________________________  _____ / 40 POINTS

POSTER (visual communication of the research project)  _____ / 40 POINTS

Content—poster includes clearly identified standard academic elements:
- title
- authors
- introduction
  - research problem/topic and its significance
  - purpose and objectives of the research
- methods
- results
- conclusions
- acknowledgements

Visual Presentation
- clear connection is established between text and graphic elements
- text and graphic elements are balanced
- text and graphic elements display appropriate word choice, accurate grammar
- text and graphic elements are highly legible (adequate resolution) and clearly labeled
- graphic elements are accurately labeled
- layout and design creates a logical flow, contributes to meaning

Creativity—writing style and design elements fully engage the viewer’s interest

PAPER (written communication of research project)  _____ / 40 POINTS

General Content
- Project exhibits originality, rigor, innovation
- Report is clear, focused, coherent
- Critical thinking skills are evident: i.e. summary, synthesis, analysis, interpretation, logical reasoning, transformation of knowledge

Writing Style
- Introduction—reflects a robust research design built on an understanding of current scholarship; a clear research problem, topic, or question is formulated and its significance explained; research goals are outlined
- Methodology—thoroughly describes how information/data was gathered
- Results—clearly explained, well organized, detailed, carefully connected to data
- Conclusion—draws connections between the results and the research question; points to future directions for scholarship
- Sources—appropriate, sufficient, accurately cited
- Writing style—appropriate for subject and field; grammar, spelling, mechanics do not distract from meaning
- Manuscript formatting—consistent and appropriate

PRESENTATION (oral communication of the research project)  _____ / 20 POINTS

Effectiveness
- speaker is audible, focused, clear
- verbal and non-verbal communication contributes to the success of the presentation

Engagement with Audience
- speaker is thorough and concise answering questions
- speaker is eager to engage

Depth and Complexity
- speaker explains/expands on the poster and project
- speaker defines field-specific terminology
- speaker clearly communicates “big picture” concepts
- speaker explains broader implications of research