



2010 NATIONAL CONTESTS

Deadline for all Contests is February 15, 2010

All contestants, except those for the Chapter-of-the-Year Award (COYA) contest, must submit their information electronically to the appropriate Contest Superintendent, **by midnight** EST on February 15, 2010. For the COYA contest, a CD-Recordable disk with all of the submitted information **and** a hard copy should be submitted, according to this contest's guidelines.

1. **Conference Theme Contest**

The MANRRS Executive Committee is seeking suggestions from its members for the MANRRS 2011 Conference theme. Every MANRRS member is encouraged to enter this contest.

2. **Chapter of the Year**

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 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.



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 February 15th.
3. All entries must be RECEIVED by 5:00 PM EST **February 15, 2010**. Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items by March 1st.
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 31st**. 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, which states 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. Use standard format set forth for scientific publication journals.
8. A contest cover sheet must be faxed to the contest superintendent.



Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

#1: Theme Contest: MANRRS 2011 Conference

The MANRRS Executive Committee is soliciting your recommendations for the theme of the 2011 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 25 years.
2. Only one submission per member is allowed.
3. The member, who submits the winning theme, will be awarded **\$250.00**.
4. All suggestions for the theme must be RECEIVED by 5:00 p.m. EST on **February 15, 2010**.
5. All suggestions should be sent via e-mail to:

Ebony Y. Webber
Program Committee Chair
E-mail: exec.office@manrrs.org

The title of the subject line of the e-mail should be:
Theme Contest – Participant's Name

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

The theme for the 2011 conference will be announced at the 2010 conference.



#2: Chapter-of-the-Year Award Contest

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 in "**good standing**" (as explained 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 completed "**MANRRS Cover Sheet for 2010 National Contests**" must accompany the packet.

Report Chapter activities conducted from September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. Attach supporting documents, as required.

Submit the original and four copies to the Contest Superintendent. In addition, COYA information must be copied on a CD-Recordable disk with the Chapter's name on an outside label.

All entries must be POSTMARKED by **February 15, 2010**. Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items by February 22, 2010.

Note: All copies must be individually bound (three-ring notebook, spiral, etc.) so that each set of documents could stay together.

SUBMIT ENTRIES TO:

Carlos Ortiz

MANRRS National Graduate Student President

1720 Peachtree Road, NW

Suite 776S

Atlanta, GA 30309

Phone: (956) 207-2274

E-mail: csortiz@tamu.edu

Fax: (404) 892-9405

AWARDS

Six Regional Winners - \$250 and a certificate
Outstanding New Chapter - \$250 and a certificate

National COYA Winner: \$1000 + a trophy and the Chapter's name on the National COYA plaque that is held by the winner until the next conference.



#2: Chapter of the Year Contest (cont'd)

I. 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 explained 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

1. Complete the Contest Coversheet.
2. Attach the supporting Annual Report that includes the Club Activities and Involvement Report.
3. Submit the original (Color) and four copies (which may be in B/W) to the COYA Contest Superintendent. In addition, COYA information must be copied on a CD-Recordable disk with the Chapter's name on an outside label.
4. All entries must be POSTMARKED, by **February 15, 2010**. Late entries will not be accepted. Participants will be notified of their participation at the National Contest, by March 1, 2010.

D. Regional

Judging of all COYA entries shall be based on a regional competition. One judging panel shall be formed and it will comprise three judges. The Judging Panel will score the entries from all six Regions. Judging of the entries will be completed by February 26th. 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 comprise 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. Dates

The dates for the activities shall be from September 1st of the previous year to August 31st of the current year. For example, the 2010 COYA will be based on the dates of September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009.

G. Club Activities and Involvement Report

The Club Activities 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 Contest (cont'd)

II. Awarding of Points

The following points are based on the typed **Annual Report** and the **Club Activities and Involvement Report**. The maximum amount of points a Chapter can receive is **700 points** for the **Annual Report** and **Club Activities and Involvement Report**.

A. Annual Report (600 points)

- **Building Chapter Membership- 100 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-100 points**

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

- **Community Service-100 points**

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

- **Promotion of the National Society-100 points**

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

- **Fundraising and Financial Management-100 points**

Examples: fundraising events, grants, sponsorships, etc.

- **Annual Report Creativity-100 points**

B. Club Activities and Involvement Report (100 points)

The Chapter's Annual Plan of Work or Calendar of Activities should list (a) the activities planned by the Chapter, and (b) the activities in which the Chapter participated.

C. Presentation/Interview (300 points)

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



#2: Chapter of the Year Contest (cont'd)

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 20-minute formal presentation and a 10-minute question/answer session.

TOTAL POINTS = 1000 (To be determined by the **Annual Report, Club Activities and Involvement Report, and Presentation/Interview**, based on the above scales.)

D. 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 September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009.
- 2- The Annual Report will be limited to a maximum of 15 typed pages. This may include charts and pertinent pictures. Appendices with the Chapter's pictures, flyers, etc. may be attached.
- 3- White paper only.
- 4- Annual Report must be BOUND in a standard 8 ½" x 11" size.
- 5- Must include a cover page, using white card stock paper 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.
- 8- The Annual Report should have a clear Cover sheet and a blank last sheet.
- 9- The Annual Reports must be delivered along with the list of activities.

Below are the criteria that the Annual Report will be judged on.

E. Criteria for Judging the Annual Report

Section 1 – Club Summary

- Letter from the President
- Brief Club Description
- Goals and Objectives
- Executive Summary of Accomplishments
- Club Organization (include Officers, Committee Responsibilities)

**#2: Chapter of the Year Contest (cont'd)****Section 2 – Chapter Membership**

- 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 3 – Leadership Development

- 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 4 – Community Service

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

Section 5 – Promotion of the National Society

- National Conference
- Regional Workshop
- Participation in National Offices

Section 6 – Fund Raising and Financial Management

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

Section 7 – Club Pages/Appendices

- Club Activities and Involvement Report

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.



Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

#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 or 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 31st**. 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. 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. 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 5:00 pm EST on **February 15th**. Participants will be notified by February 22nd 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. Abstracts and questions shall be directed to Contest Superintendents for the appropriate Division.

<u>Undergraduates Division I</u> Dr. Byron Sleugh Dow AgroSciences 6887 Dakota Drive West Des Moines, IA 50266 Phone: (515) 226-2165 Fax: (800) 565-4210 Email: bbsleugh@dow.com	<u>Undergraduates Division II</u> Dr. Ulises Toledo Douglass Land-Grant Institute West Virginia State University Institute, WV 25112 Phone: (304) 766-4290 Home: 304-541-1413 Email: toledoju@wvstateu.edu
<u>Graduate Division I</u> Dr. Verian D. Thomas Florida A&M University College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture Rm. 306 Perry-Paige S Tallahassee, FL 32307 E-mail: Verian.thomas@famuedu Fax: (850) 412-7603	<u>Graduates Division II</u> Dr. Lorraine Weatherspoon Michigan State University Department of Food Science & Human Nutrition 334-A G.M. Trout FSHN Building East Lansing, MI 48824-1224 Phone: (517) 355-8474 ext. 136 Fax: (517) 353-8963 Email: weathe43@msu.edu

AWARDS:

First Place - \$300 and a certificate
Second Place - \$200 and a certificate
Third Place - \$150 and a certificate

**#3: Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest (cont'd)****B. SCORE SHEET FOR WRITTEN ABSTRACTS**

Written abstracts should be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

	Maximum Points	Points Received
1. <u>General Organization</u> (Fits into box as specified, significance of problem, objectives, methodology, results and conclusions are organized in an orderly and logical manner.)	5	_____
Formatting guidelines followed	10	_____
2. <u>Subject Content</u> Included a clear statement of rationale, purpose and objectives	5	_____
Methodology is easy to understand and appropriate for research question (follows scientific principles i.e. use of appropriate experimental design and statistical analyses)	10	_____
Results and conclusions relate clearly to the objectives; pertinent data points are mentioned to support contentions; and the significance and application of the findings are stated in a succinct but clear manner.	5	_____
Total Possible Points	25	_____

Judge's comments:



#3: Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contests (cont'd)

II. 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 state 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 5:00 pm EST on **February 15, 2010**.
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 Contests (cont'd)

III. SCORE SHEET FOR ORAL RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Research papers will be judged on the basis of the following criteria:

**MANRRS Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest - Division I and II
(Scorecard)**

	Maximum Points	Pts. received
<p>1. Organization - Presentation was organized and delivered in the proper sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a). Introduction - statement of problem or gap in current knowledge [5] b). Hypothesis - proposed solution [5] c). Methodology - plan for testing the validity of the proposed solution [5] d). Results – data from experiments [5] e). Conclusions/statement of impact of research (problem solved/gap closed?) [5] 	25	_____
<p>2. Delivery - Topic was presented in a way that made it easier for the audience to comprehend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a). Expression: English language and grammar [6]; diction [2]; pronunciation [2]; voice projection [2] b). Use of audio-visual aids: slides [2]; projector/computer [2] c). Interaction with audience: eye contact [2]; no distracting mannerisms [2] *d). Delivered within assigned time frame [5] 	25	_____
<p>3. Visual aids – Legible [5]; neat [5]; appropriate to subject matter [5]; clarified concepts [5]</p>	20	_____
<p>4. Knowledge of subject matter -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a). Problem, or gap in knowledge, real? [6] b). Proposed solution based on sound science/logic? [6] c). Appropriateness of methodology used [6] d). Conclusion(s) supported by data? [6] e). Quality of response to questions [6] 	30	_____
Total score:	100	_____

**8 minutes max for presentation; 2 minutes or more for questions and answers. Deduct 3 points for each minute a contestant exceeds the time allotted for presentation for a maximum of 6 points.
(Number of minutes over time allotted: _____)*

Name of Contestant:

Judge's comments:



#4: Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest

A. 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 "noncompetitive". Entries may not be duplicated and entered in the Student Oral Research Contest.

B. 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 **December 31, 2009**. There will be no waiver of conference registration fees for participants.

Ph.D. candidates will be allowed to compete competitively in the Poster Contest. However, space can be reserved for display only. A Power Point of the poster's graphics will also need to be submitted the contest superintendent

C. APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

The deadline for entries is **5:00 pm EST** on **February 15, 2010**. All entries must be submitted, as instructed on the Student Research Poster Contest Abstract Form. Selected contest participants will be notified by February 22, 2010.

E-mail entries to:

Marcus Coleman

Michigan State University

Phone: (517) 353-3262

E-mail: colem235@grd.msu.edu

Fax: (517) 353-3355

AWARDS:

First Place - \$300 and a certificate

Second Place - \$200 and a certificate

Third Place - \$150 and a certificate



#4: Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest (cont'd)

A. Instructions for the preparation of the abstract

- Prepare an abstract according to the guidelines contained in Contest #3.II above.
- To accompany the abstract, a Power Point will need to be developed highlights your poster presentation (Graphics)

B. Guidelines for the preparation of student research posters

The poster boards used will measure **6 feet high by 8 feet wide**.

The poster must be carefully planned, clear and concise. It should contain a brief statement of the purpose of your work, your experimental methodology and design, and the major results of your findings and their implications. It should hold the attention of the audience.

C. Lettering

Title - A label showing the abstract number, the title, the author(s) 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 author(s), and sponsoring institution must be at least $\frac{3}{4}$ inch high. All other type must be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch high. Your poster must be readable from a distance of 6 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 paper, do not use free hand printed letters.

Figures and Tables - Numerals and letters, included in the Figures and Tables, must be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch high. The final size of the Figure or Table will depend on the complexity of the information, but it should not be less than 8in. x 10 in.

D. Mounting

Do not use heavy (thick) stock, since this will not be supported by the Velcro "dots". Leave $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 1 inch around your picture or illustration.

E. Miscellaneous

Back lighted photographs, sound or projection equipment, freestanding displays greater than 4 x8 feet are prohibited. Tape should not be used to attach your display to the poster board.

It is important that you bring all of the materials, such as "dots" with adhesive on one side and Velcro on the other, that you will need to set up your display. Do not depend on the poster Contest Coordinator for supplies.

Be sure to have all materials prepared before you leave home. The time allocated, during the conference, is not the appropriate time for preparing or designing the poster.



#4: Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest (cont'd)

SCORE SHEET FOR COMPETITIVE POSTERS

Poster presentations will be judged on the basis of the following criteria and the possible points attached thereto:

	Maximum Points	Points
Received		
PRESENTATION:		
<i>Use of headings and subheadings</i>	10	_____
Is the heading included, showing the abstract number, title, author, and affiliation?		
Is the lettering of the heading clearly visible from a distance of 6 ft?		
<i>Flow (uncluttered and easy to follow)</i>	10	_____
Can one follow the "flow" of the presentation, beginning with the title, introduction (including objectives), materials and methods, results, and discussion and/or conclusions?		
<i>Quality of graphs and charts</i>	10	_____
Are the illustrations of suitable quality and size?		
Is the number of illustrations appropriate in relation to the subject discussed?		
<i>Appearance (neat and proportional)</i>	10	_____
What is the overall neatness of the poster?		
CONTENT:		
<i>Introduction, including statement of purpose</i>	10	_____
Clear and concise		
<i>Abstract</i>	5	_____
Was the Abstract prepared in accordance with instructions and does it contain information on methods and results?		
<i>Research methods & materials (appropriate & clear)</i>	15	_____
Was the work well conceived and properly executed in relation to the subject?		
<i>Results and discussion</i>	20	_____
Is the poster concise, in logical sequence, and self-explanatory?		
<i>Conclusion (consistent with research methodology)</i>	10	_____
Were the conclusions valid?		
TOTAL		_____

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:



Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

#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 31st**. A completed "MANRRS Cover Sheet for Contests" must accompany each entry.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

All entries must be RECEIVED by 5:00 pm EST on **February 15, 2010**. 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. Submit entries and any questions to:

Sonia G. Morales Osegueda, Ph.D.

Extension Educator & Faculty
Agriculture/4-H Youth Development
WSU Cooperative Extension, King County
919 SW Grady Way Suite 120
Renton, WA 98055-2980
Phone (206) 205-3133; FAX (206) 296-0952
E-mail: sgmorales@wsu.edu or sonia.morales@metrokc.gov

Participants will be notified upon receipt of their packets. Only faxes for contest coversheets will be accepted.

AWARDS

1st Place	\$300 and a certificate
2nd Place	\$200 and a certificate
3rd Place	\$150 and a certificate



#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: "**MANRRS: 25 Years of History, Excellence and Opportunities...The Best is yet to Come!**"
- Essays should be typewritten with one-inch margins and sent to the Contest Superintendent. Essays must be RECEIVED by 5:00 p.m. EST **February 15, 2010.**
- 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**

Contestant's Name: _____

	<u>Maximum Points</u>	
Content Related to Topic	(100 Points)	_____
Style	(100 Points)	_____
Opening Paragraph	(100 Points)	_____
Organization and Logic	(300 Points)	_____
Clarity of Expression	(300 Points)	_____
Use of References	(100 Points)	_____
Total Points	(1000 Points)	_____

Rank of Contestant _____

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. **(100 points)**
2. Style includes the adherence to the rules of style listed in the Rules for Essay Preparation and Submission. **(100 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. **(100 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. **(300 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. **(300 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. **(100 points)**

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:



#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 31st**.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES:

- A. All speeches must pertain to the conference theme: “**MANRRS: 25 Years of History, Excellence and Opportunities...The Best is yet to Come!**” Complete an accurate bibliography to the Contest Superintendent. Entries must be RECEIVED by 5:00 pm EST on **February 15, 2010**. Electronic submission is required.
- B. For electronic submissions, please use the following format for the Subject line: **Contest Name, - Participant's name.**
- C. A completed contest cover sheet must accompany the entry. For electronic submissions, Cover Sheets can be scanned or faxed and must include the advisor's signature.

Submit entries to:

Dr. Wash Jones

College of Agriculture and Human Sciences
Prairie View A&M University
Mail Stop 2000
Post Office Box 519
Prairie View, Texas 77446-0519
Phone: 936-261-2538
Fax: 936-857-2811
E-mail: wajones@pvamu.edu

Awards

<u>1st Place</u>	\$300 and a certificate
<u>2nd Place</u>	\$200 and a certificate
<u>3rd Place</u>	\$150 and a certificate



#6: National Public Speaking Contest (cont'd)

Guidelines for Judging the National Public Speaking Contest

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' 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 800 points on his/her essay to be considered for the final round. A committee will select six finalists from the pool of contestants scoring more than 800 points on their essay.

Judges shall return their preliminary scores to the Contest Superintendent by **February 26, 2010**. Contestants will be notified, by **March 1, 2010**, 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 for 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 Awards Luncheon.

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 (cont'd)

NATIONAL PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST

JUDGE'S SCORE SHEET

Contestant's Name _____

Written Presentation

Content related to topic	(100 points) _____
Style	(100 points) _____
Opening paragraph	(100 points) _____
Organization and logic	(300 points) _____
Clarity of expression	(300 points) _____
Use of references	(100 points) _____
TOTAL POINTS	(1000 points) _____

Rank of contestant _____

Oral Presentation

Power of expression	(300 points) _____
Voice	(100 points) _____
Stage presence	(300 points) _____
General effect	(150 points) _____
Response to questions	(150 points) _____
TOTAL POINTS	(1000 POINTS) _____

*less deduction for exceeding time limit _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

CUMULATIVE POINTS

(2000 POINTS) _____

RANK OF CONTESTANT _____

JUDGE'S COMMENTS:

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

**#6: National Public Speaking Contest (cont'd)****EXPLANATION OF POINT SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING CONTEST**

1. **Power of expression** includes: fluency, emphasis, directness, sincerity, communicative ability, conveyance of thought and meaning. **(300 points)**
2. **Voice** includes: quality, pitch, articulation, pronunciation, force. **(100 points)**
3. **Stage presence** includes: personal appearance, poise and body posture, attitude, confidence, personality, and ease before the audience. **(300 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. **(150 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.

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



#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: *“MANRRS: 25 Years of History, Excellence and Opportunities...The Best is yet to Come!”*

The contest theme is: **“The Challenges of Globalization: Value Added Through Global Education and Research, Academic Partnerships, and Corporate Leadership”**

Contest Superintendent:

Mrs. Geraldine G. Peeples
Phone: (217) 351-0868
Fax: (217) 351-8085
E-mail: peeples@illinois.edu

AWARDS

1st Place	\$300 and a certificate
2nd Place	\$200 and a certificate
3rd Place	\$150 and a certificate



Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

#7: National Research Discussion Contest (cont'd)

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 5:00p.m. EASTERN, **February 15, 2010.**

Essays will be judged based on the following criteria:

Content as identified above:	(100 points) _____
Opening paragraph	(75 points) _____
Organization and logic	(100 points) _____
Clarity of expression	(50 points) _____
Closing paragraph	(75 points) _____
Total Points	(400 points) _____

Rank of Contestant _____



Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences

#7: National Research Discussion Contest (cont'd)

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 January 28, 2010.
3. Contestants will be notified via e-mail, by **February 26, 2010**, 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.



#7: National Research Discussion Contest (cont'd)

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.

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 5 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, 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 other's thoughts effectively.



#7: National Research Discussion Contest (cont'd)

NATIONAL RESEARCH DISCUSSION CONTEST RATING SHEET

Individual Summary

PARTICIPANT'S NAME _____

				<p>TOPIC:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Superior--- 5; Excellent---4; Good---3; Fair---2; Poor---1</p>				
				<p>(1) DEFINITION OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: Importance, causes, effects, relevancy of problem</p>				
				<p>(2) ANALYSIS OF TOPIC OR PROBLEM: Does contestant attempt to identify problem causes and remain on topic? Knowledge, extent and accuracy of facts. Data were interpreted properly.</p>				
				<p>(3) PRESENTATION OF RESEARCH MATERIAL AND PROBLEM SOLVING: 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</p>				
				<p>(4) DELIVERY: Voice quality, projection, clear enunciation, friendly and interactive, desirable sentence structure and vocabulary.</p>				
				<p>(5) COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE: Listening, asking pertinent questions, airing all points of view, securing major agreement, Minimizing major differences, respect for other participants.</p>				



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				<p>(6) TOTAL EFFECTIVENESS: A general evaluation of overall problem-solving performance by the contestant.</p>				
				<p>(7) QUALITY OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE: Knowledge, relevance, confidence, and interactive ability</p>				
				<p>(8) TOTAL (Total score for each contestant is to be tabulated by the judge. Any tie scores are to be broken by the judge.)</p>				
				RANK				

COMMENTS: Briefly summarize strengths and opportunities for improvements.