

“Reach for the Stars: Inspire, Inquire, and Innovate”

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION



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To print out additional copies of this information, please visit: www.stepforleaders.org.

Important Dates and General Conference Information at a Glance

<i>Important Deadlines</i>	<i>Information</i>	<i>Additional Information</i>
January 16, 2015	<p align="center">Due Date for Workshop Proposals</p> <p>The committee is seeking professionals to present workshops at the conference. Presenters should focus on the following themes: academic achievement, preparation for college, technology etiquette (<i>i.e., cell phone, e-mail and social networks</i>), financial literacy, peer pressure (<i>bullying</i>), self-esteem, internships, student responsibility, leadership skills, communication skills, setting goals, and personal success.</p>	Page 8
January 27, 2015 by 4:00pm	<p>Poster Abstracts for the Student Research Poster Competition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to an increase in the number of students and institutions desiring to participate in the poster presentation competition, a maximum of 3 posters from each institution will be accepted. ▪ <u>ALL ABSTRACTS and LISTS</u> of references/bibliographies must be submitted by 4:00pm Tuesday, January 27, 2015 via the ONLINE SUBMISSION PROCESS. ▪ Abstracts that are more than 150 words in length will not be accepted for the competition. Abstracts that exceed the 150 words length <u>will be eliminated from the competition.</u> ▪ Institutions should not submit more than 3 abstracts for the poster competition. Institutions that <u>exceed the submission limit will have all abstracts eliminated</u> from the competition. 	Student Poster Competition Information <i>Attachment</i>
February 13, 2015	<p align="center">8th Annual College Fair Registration Deadline</p> <p>To increase the number of institutions participating in the 2015 STEP Student Conference College Fair on Saturday, March 28, 2015, STEP Programs paying the conference registration fee for attendees from <u>their institution will not be assessed an additional \$150.00</u> to have their Admissions Office participate in the fair. All non-registered institutions for the STEP Conference will have to <u>pay the \$150.00 fee in order to have their institution</u> participate in the fair.</p>	Pages 9—10

Important Deadlines	Information	Additional Information								
<p>Refer to Dates</p>	<p align="center">Conference Registration Rates</p> <p>The registration rate will be determined by the deadlines. Registration delivered to Syracuse University after February 20, 2015 will not be accepted. <i>Unfortunately, exceptions cannot be made for any institution.</i></p> <p>Registration Fees will ONLY be accepted in the form of INSTITUTIONAL CHECKS or Money Orders. Personal Checks, Cash, Credit Cards, and Electronic Transfer of Funds are not acceptable forms of payment.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="399 600 1247 953"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="399 600 842 709">REGISTRATION FEES AND DEADLINES</th> <th data-bbox="842 600 1247 709">2014 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES (per person rate)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="399 709 842 789"> Early Registration Fee (Must Be Received By January 23, 2015) </td> <td data-bbox="842 709 1247 789"> \$175.00/per person </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="399 789 842 869"> Regular Registration Fee (Must Be Received By February 6, 2015) </td> <td data-bbox="842 789 1247 869"> \$200.00/per person </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="399 869 842 953"> Late Registration Fee (Must Be Received By February 20, 2015) </td> <td data-bbox="842 869 1247 953"> \$225.00/per person </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This fee does not cover hotel/lodging. The conference does not pay for students and staffs' hotel accommodations.</p> <p>The maximum number of registrants per institution is TWENTY (20). Registrants are composed of project administrators, students, staff, parents, instructors, volunteers, chaperones, faculty sponsors, project administrators' children and spouse, etc.</p>	REGISTRATION FEES AND DEADLINES	2014 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES (per person rate)	Early Registration Fee (Must Be Received By January 23, 2015)	\$175.00/per person	Regular Registration Fee (Must Be Received By February 6, 2015)	\$200.00/per person	Late Registration Fee (Must Be Received By February 20, 2015)	\$225.00/per person	<p align="center">Conference Registration Form <i>Attachment</i></p>
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Early Registration Fee (Must Be Received By January 23, 2015)	\$175.00/per person									
Regular Registration Fee (Must Be Received By February 6, 2015)	\$200.00/per person									
Late Registration Fee (Must Be Received By February 20, 2015)	\$225.00/per person									
<p>February 20, 2015</p> <p>The last day to register for the 2015 Conference.</p>	<p align="center">Conference Registration Process</p> <p>STEP 1: Conference Registration Fees Submit a completed registration packet (a total of 4 pages) with your registration fees (<i>institutional check or money order</i>) for a maximum of 20 participants directly to Syracuse University.</p> <p>STEP 2: Albany Marriott Hotel Reservation Form Submission The Albany Marriott Hotel Reservation Form will be emailed to institutions AFTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES have been paid to Syracuse University. Each institution is responsible for registering all institution participants (<i>a maximum of 20 participants</i>) directly with the Albany Marriott Hotel by using the Hotel Reservation Form.</p>	<p align="center">Conference Registration Form <i>Attachment</i></p>								

Important Deadlines	Information	Additional Information										
<p>February 27, 2015</p> <p><i>The last day to register for the 2015 Conference at the Marriott Hotel.</i></p>	<p align="center">Albany Marriott Hotel Reservations Deadline</p> <p>Hotel Package Rates (per person) include the cost of the hotel stay and all the meals during the conference. Each institution is responsible for registering all students and staff attending under the institution <u>DIRECTLY</u> with the Albany Marriott Hotel.</p> <p align="center">Package plan</p> <p>Two Night Stay Arrival Friday, March 27, 2015 and Departure Sunday, March 29, 2015</p> <p>Five Meals Friday 3/27 – Dinner; Saturday 3/28 – Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner; Sunday 3/29 – Breakfast and Box Lunch</p> <p>Package Rates</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="412 720 1235 926"> <thead> <tr> <th>Per Person Rate with Tax</th> <th>Per Person Rate without Tax</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Single Occupancy: \$455.47</td> <td>Single Occupancy: \$410.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Double Occupancy: \$323.23</td> <td>Double Occupancy: \$294.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Triple Occupancy: \$279.14</td> <td>Triple Occupancy: \$255.66</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quad Occupancy: \$257.11</td> <td>Quad Occupancy: \$236.34</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>**The maximum number of occupants per hotel room is FOUR (4). Exceptions to the maximum number cannot be made for any institution.</p> <p><i>It is the responsibility of each institution to supply a copy of their respective organization's tax-exempt certificate to the Marriott Hotel. <u>This certificate must accompany the hotel reservation form</u> in order to receive tax-exempt status.</i></p>	Per Person Rate with Tax	Per Person Rate without Tax	Single Occupancy: \$455.47	Single Occupancy: \$410.34	Double Occupancy: \$323.23	Double Occupancy: \$294.34	Triple Occupancy: \$279.14	Triple Occupancy: \$255.66	Quad Occupancy: \$257.11	Quad Occupancy: \$236.34	<p><i>The Albany Marriott Hotel Reservation Form will be emailed to institutions</i></p> <p>AFTER REGISTRATION FEES have been paid to Syracuse University.</p>
Per Person Rate with Tax	Per Person Rate without Tax											
Single Occupancy: \$455.47	Single Occupancy: \$410.34											
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<p>February 20, 2015</p> <p><i>Names of Student Ambassadors received after the February 20, 2015 deadline will not be accepted. Unfortunately, exceptions cannot be made for any institution.</i></p>	<p align="center">Student Ambassador Program and Nomination Process</p> <p>The STEP Statewide Student Conference is designed as a student-centered event. To make this design a reality, Project Administrators are asked to select ONE student to represent their institution during the conference via the online process. Unfortunately, exceptions will not be made to the one student ambassador per institution. Ambassadors will be able to assist the Conference Planning Committee in the areas listed below during the three-day conference:</p> <p>Introductions of Workshop Presenters and Keynote Speaker</p> <p>Social Events on Friday and Saturday Evenings</p> <p>8th Annual College Fair on Saturday Afternoon</p> <p>Poster Competition on Saturday Afternoon</p> <p>Celebratory Dinner on Saturday Evening</p> <p>Sunday Morning Program Awards Ceremony</p>	<p align="center">Page 6</p>										

<i>Important Deadlines</i>	<i>Information</i>	<i>Additional Information</i>
<p>Intent to Participate Form</p> <p>January 16, 2015</p>	<p align="center">2015 Robotics Exhibition</p> <p>To cultivate and promote the innovative spirit, teambuilding and oral presentation skills of the STEP students, the conference will host a Robot Exhibition Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 2:15pm to 5:00pm. The non-competitive exhibit will allow teams to showcase and demonstrate their best working robot! Students not participating in the event will be given the opportunity to visit the exhibition. Due to space constraints the competition will be limited to 12 teams, with a ONE TEAM per institution limit. <u>Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis</u> until all the spaces have been filled. Institutions MUST COMPLETE & SUBMIT the <i>Intent to Participate Form</i> (this form) in order to participate in the 2015 exhibition and email to the subcommittee chair by Friday, January 16, 2015. <i>Exhibition Guidelines and details will be sent to institutions accepted into the exhibition.</i></p> <p>Christy Stephenson Mohawk Valley Community College cstephenson@mvcc.edu</p>	<p align="center">Page 7</p>
<p>January 16, 2015</p>	<p align="center">2015 STEP Statewide Conference Subcommittees Invitation</p> <p>The success of the annual STEP Statewide Student Conference is due in part to the support, commitment, and dedication of Project Administrators from across the state. To garner this energy, subcommittees have been formed to assist with the implementation of the 2015 Conference. It is the Conference Planning Committee's hope that each of you will volunteer to serve on one of these committees. To sign up for one of the committees, please send an e-mail directly to the Subcommittee Chair Person(s). The deadline to sign up to be a part of the subcommittees is Friday, January 16, 2015. Please refer to page 11 of this packet for the list of subcommittees and chairs.</p>	<p align="center">Page 11</p>

TENTATIVE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

STEP Conference 2015

Friday ~ March 27th

TIME	ACTIVITY
3:00pm ~ 7:30pm	Registration
4:15pm ~ 5:30pm	Student Concurrent Workshop Sessions
6:30pm ~ 8:30pm	STEP Pep Rally/Roll Call Buffet Dinner
9:00pm ~ 11:30pm	Coffee House/Talent Show/Games Student Entertainment
9:30pm ~ 11:30pm	APACS Reception

Saturday ~ March 28th

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30am ~ 8:30am	Breakfast
8:30am ~ 8:45am	Plenary Session
8:45am—9:15am	Student Poster Display Setup
9:00am ~ 10:30am	Registration
9:30am ~ 11:00am	Poster Judges Meeting
9:30am ~ 12:00pm	Staff Professional Development Workshop
9:00am ~ 10:15am & 10:30am ~ 11:45am	Student Concurrent Workshop Sessions
12:20pm ~ 1:20pm	Lunch Buffet
1:15pm ~ 1:45pm	Setup for College Fair
1:30pm ~ 2:00pm	Setup for Student Research Poster Presentation
2:00pm ~ 4:00pm	8 th Annual College Fair
2:15pm ~ 5:00pm	Student Research Poster Presentations
2:15pm ~ 5:00pm	Student Robotics Competition
6:30pm ~ 8:30pm	Celebratory Dinner Keynote Address
9:30pm ~ 12:00am	Student Entertainment

Sunday ~ March 29th

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30am ~ 9:00am	Breakfast
8:30am ~ 10:30am	Awards Ceremony, T-Shirt Competition Winner, and Closing Plenary Session & Box Lunches
10:30am ~ 11:30am	Check-Out

STEP STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The STEP Statewide Student Conference is designed as a *student-centered* event. To make this design a reality, Project Administrators are asked to select **ONE student** to represent their institution during the conference. This student should be someone who is *confident, articulate, and possess the ability* to act independently as well as work comfortably in group settings. We want every Ambassador to have the opportunity to represent their institution during the three-day conference, so please ***do not submit*** the names of more than one student.

During the 17th Annual STEP Statewide Student Conference, Student Ambassadors will **ASSIST** the 2015 STEP Statewide Student Conference Planning Committee with the following *Service Areas*:

- ✓ **Introductions**—[Keynote Speaker and Workshop Presenters on Friday Afternoon and Saturday]
- ✓ STEP Student **Pep Rally** on Friday Evening
- ✓ **Social Events** on Friday and Saturday Evenings
- ✓ 8th Annual **College Fair** on Saturday Afternoon
- ✓ Student **Research Poster and Robotics Competitions**—Saturday Afternoon
- ✓ **Saturday Dinner**—[Mistress and/or Master of Ceremony, Welcome, Introductions, etc.]
- ✓ **Sunday Morning Program**—[Awards Ceremony and Evaluations]
- ✓ All Ambassadors **will serve as ushers** during the Celebratory Dinner on Saturday Evening.

Once the conference schedule is set, Project Directors/Coordinators will receive student assignments and conference expectations as e-mail attachments. A **Mandatory Meeting for Student Ambassadors** will be held on **Friday, March 27, 2015 from 8:15pm to 9:00pm (tentative time)** in the Albany/Colonie Room. **Names emailed or faxed to either Mohawk Valley Community College or Syracuse University will not be considered for this year's conference.**

To complete the registration process, please copy or paste into your browser the link below and follow the instructions on the website:

[2015 Student Ambassador Nomination Form](#) or <http://goo.gl/forms/aUv4Ptawom>

The deadline to submit to names is **Friday, February 20, 2015**. Institutions *who fail to complete the registration form online* by the February 20th deadline **will not have a student** representative at the 2015 Conference; but will be eligible for participation at the 2016 STEP Statewide Student Conference.

Please *direct all calls and emails*** regarding the STEP Student Ambassador Program to **Kim Overrocker**—Mohawk Valley Community College at (315) 792—5424 or koverrocker@mvcc.edu



2015 ROBOTICS EXHIBITION

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE FORM

To cultivate and promote the innovative spirit, teambuilding and oral presentation skills of the STEP students, the conference will host a Robot Exhibition Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 2:15pm to 5:00pm. The non-competitive exhibit will allow teams to showcase and demonstrate their best working robot! Students not participating in the event will be given the opportunity to visit the exhibition. Due to space constraints **the competition will be limited to 12 teams, with a ONE TEAM per institution limit. Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis** until all the spaces have been filled. Institutions **MUST COMPLETE & SUBMIT** the Intent to Participate Form (this form) in order to participate in the 2015 exhibition and email to the subcommittee chair by **Friday, January 16, 2015**. *Exhibition Guidelines and details will be sent to institutions accepted into the exhibition.*

INSTITUTION AND CONTACT PERSON INFORMATION

INSTITUTION NAME:	
*PROJECT DIRECTOR/COORDINATOR'S NAME:	
TELEPHONE NUMBER:	
FAX NUMBER:	
E-MAIL ADDRESS:	

* This person will be considered the **PRIMARY CONTACT** for information pertaining to Robotics Competition.

If you are interested in participating in this competition, please complete this form and return it by **Friday, January 16, 2015 as a PDF document to:**

Christy Stephenson Mohawk Valley Community College
cstephenson@mvcc.edu

** Please direct all calls and emails regarding the STEP Technology Exhibition Event to **Christy Stephenson**— Mohawk Valley Community College at (315) 792—5351 or cstephenson@mvcc.edu

****Names emailed or forms faxed to Syracuse University will not be considered for this year's conference.*



CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

17th Annual STEP Statewide Student Conference

March 27, 2015 to March 29, 2015 Albany Marriott ~ Albany, New York
Hosted by the New York State Education Department and Syracuse University

The **Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)** is comprised of 51 colleges and universities across New York State, and one of its many purposes is to introduce students to practical experience in the scientific, technical, and health-related fields, and to prepare students for the rigors of college and beyond. Over 400 students and 125 program directors/advisors regularly attend the conference. Do not miss the opportunity to share valuable information in a forum that allows access to students and staff across New York State who helped to garner the **2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentorship (PAESMEM)**! More information about this award winning program may be found on the New York State Education Department's website at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/step> or www.stepforleaders.org

CONFERENCE TOPICS

This year's STEP Conference will emphasize the importance of planning ahead, being persistent, and staying focused. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to: *academic achievement, preparation for college, technology etiquette (i.e., cell phone, e-mail and social networks), financial literacy, peer pressure (bullying), self-esteem, internships, student responsibility, leadership skills, communication skills, setting goals, time and stress management, and personal success.* Workshops will take place on either **Friday, March 27, 2015** or **Saturday, March 28, 2015**, with each convening for **75 minutes**.

SPECIFICATIONS FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS & **ONLINE** SUBMISSION PROCESS

Workshop proposals should: (1) be relevant to the conference theme and student population (middle and high school students); (2) **not exceed 150 words in length**; (3) be **submitted electronically** by **Friday, January 16, 2015** (refer to the link listed below); and (4) be submitted as an abstract that includes the presenter's name, co-presenter's name, mailing address, work telephone number, home telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, business or academic affiliation, workshop title, and a list of needed audio-visual equipments (e.g. overhead projector, LCD projector, easel/flip chart, microphone, TV or VCR). *The conference does not provide laptops or iPads. Workshop presenters are responsible for bringing their own laptops or iPads.* **Proposals mailed, emailed or faxed to Syracuse University will not be considered for this year's conference.**

***Presenters should submit a maximum of TWO workshop proposals for review and consideration by the 2015 STEP Statewide Student Conference Planning Committee.

To complete the registration process and to submit your workshop abstract, please copy or paste into your browser the link below and follow the instructions on the website:

[2015 Workshop Proposal Registration Form](#) or <http://goo.gl/forms/RTBD7mdTCU>

Selected workshop presenters will receive hotel accommodations, meals, and an honorarium.

***Note: This does not apply to STEP Program Administrators.*

PROPOSALS are DUE **January 16, 2015** with *electronic notification* by **February 6, 2015**.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Leonese Nelson, Conference Chair—Syracuse University
Phone: 315-443-9171 Email: lenenelson@syr.edu or
stepconference@syr.edu



17th Annual STEP Statewide Student Conference

March 27, 2015 to March 29, 2015 Albany Marriott ~ Albany, New York

Hosted by the New York State Education Department and Syracuse University

8TH ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR

The Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) of New York State invites **College Representatives** to attend a **College Fair** at our March statewide student conference! The College Fair will be one of the many exciting events that will take place during the **17th Annual STEP Statewide Student Conference from March 27, 2015 to March 29, 2015, at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, New York** (189 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12205 - (518) 458-8444.)

STEP is comprised of 51 colleges and universities across New York State, and one of its many purposes is to provide middle and high school students with practical experience in the scientific, technical, and health-related fields, and to prepare students for the rigors of college and beyond. Over 400 students and 125 program directors/advisors regularly attend the conference. Do not miss this opportunity to share valuable information about your institution in a forum that captures the attention of perspective students and staff across New York State, those of whom helped to garner the **2003 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentorship (PAESMEM)**! More information about this award winning program may be found on the New York State Education Department's website at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/kiap/step> or www.stepforleaders.org

The College Fair will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Set-up for the fair will be from 1:15pm to 1:45pm. The cost of providing valuable and timely information to this critical mass of students and project administrators is \$150.00. (This fee does not include hotel costs or transportation to and from the conference site in Albany, New York).

If your institution has a STEP Program paying conference registration fees for their students, the admissions office can participate in the fair for FREE. However, all non-registered institutions will have to pay the \$150.00 fee to participate in the fair.

Please notify the conference committee of your institution's intent to participate in this event by e-mailing or faxing the enclosed form by **February 13, 2015** to Mary Stickney sticknme@potdam.edu (preferred method) or (315) 267-3343 (fax number).

Please make all checks payable to Syracuse University, and mail to:

Mail Checks to:
Mary Stickney
SUNY Potsdam
44 Pierrepont Avenue
STEP Office 237 Sisson Hall
Potsdam, NY 13676

For additional information about the fair, please contact one of the College Fair Sub-Committee Co-chairs.

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE COLLEGE FAIR SUB-COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Cecelia Russo St. John's University russoc@stjohns.edu (718) 990—6667

Mary Stickney SUNY Potsdam sticknme@potdam.edu (315) 267—2584



17th Annual STEP Statewide Student Conference

March 27, 2015 to March 29, 2015 Albany Marriott ~ Albany, New York

Hosted by the New York State Education Department and Syracuse University

8TH ANNUAL COLLEGE FAIR REGISTRATION FORM

Institution Name _____

*Name of Representative Attending College Fair: _____
 ** This name will be included in the conference book.

Representative's Title _____

Mailing Address _____

School's/Program's Website URL: _____

E-Mail _____ Telephone _____ FAX _____
 (All further correspondence will be via e-mail.)

The **College Fair** will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, New York on **Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 2:00pm to 4:00pm**. **Set-up** for the fair will be from 1:15pm to 1:45pm.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:

{ } Please register our school for the STEP College Fair — **Saturday, March 28, 2015**.
My institution's STEP Program has submitted its conference registration fees, which covers my fee.

STEP Program Director/Coordinator : _____ Email Address: _____

{ } Please register our school for the STEP College Fair — **Saturday, March 28, 2015**.
I have enclosed the non-refundable registration fee of \$150.00 payable to Syracuse University.

Checks should be made payable to: Syracuse University

Mail Checks to:	Mary Stickney SUNY Potsdam 44 Pierrepont Avenue NCSTEP Office 237 Sisson Hall Potsdam, NY 13676
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****Registration is **NOT** confirmed until the fee is paid. The **official registration deadline is February 13, 2015**, but we encourage early registration, as this event may fill before the deadline.****

SUBMIT REGISTRATION FORMS BY February 13, 2015 to:

E-mail as a PDF document sticknme@potsdam.edu **Subject:** STEP Statewide Student Conference College Fair
(Preferred Method)

FAX # 315-267-3343 **Attention:** STEP Statewide Student Conference College Fair

For additional information, please contact one of the College Fair Sub-Committee Co-chairs.

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE COLLEGE FAIR SUB-COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:

Cecelia Russo	St. John's University	russoc@stjohns.edu	(718) 990—6667
Mary Stickney	SUNY Potsdam	sticknme@potsdam.edu	(315) 267—2584

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE SUBCOMMITTEES INVITATION

The success of the annual STEP Statewide Student Conference is due in part to the support, commitment, and dedication of Project Administrators from across the state. To garner this energy, subcommittees have been formed to assist with the implementation of the 2015 Conference. It is the Conference Planning Committee's hope that each of you will volunteer to serve on one of these committees. **To sign up for one of the committees, please send an e-mail directly to the Subcommittee Chair Person(s).** For example: If you would like to serve on the Entertainment Committee, please email co-chairs **Renee Mapp** Rmapp2@buffalo.edu or **Etwin Bowman** elbowman@albany.edu. The deadline to sign up to be a part of the subcommittees is **Friday, January 16, 2015.**

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

<i>Committee Members</i>	<i>Institutions</i>	<i>E-mail Addresses</i>	<i>Contact Numbers</i>	<i>Regions</i>
Etwin Bowman ENTERTAINMENT (CO-CHAIR)	SUNY Albany	elbowman@albany.edu	(518) 442—9083	Capital District
Barbara Jones Jones STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CHAIR)	Mercy College	bjones@mercy.edu	(914) 674—7204	Mid-Hudson
Renee Mapp ENTERTAINMENT (CO-CHAIR)	SUNY Buffalo Biomedical Program	Rmapp2@buffalo.edu	(716) 829-2813	Buffalo
Melanie Mazurek Jones COMMITTEE MEMBER	Hofstra University	melanie.a.mazurek@hofstra.edu	(516) 463-5797	Long Island
Kim Overrocker STUDENT AMBASSADOR (CHAIR)	Mohawk Valley Community College	koverrocker@mvcc.edu	(315) 792—5424	Central New York
Cecelia M. Russo COLLEGE FAIR (CO-CHAIR)	St. John's University	russoc@stjohns.edu	(718) 990—6667	Long Island
Christy Stephenson ROBOTICS EXHIBITION (CHAIR)	Mohawk Valley Community College	cstephenson@mvcc.edu	(315)792-5351	Central New York
Mary Stickney COLLEGE FAIR (CO-CHAIR)	SUNY Potsdam	stickme@potdam.edu	(315) 267—2584	Northern New York
Claudine-Lonje A. Williams COMMITTEE MEMBER EMERITUS	New York University	clr2@nyu.edu	(212) 998-5665	Not Applicable
Dr. Leonese Nelson	Syracuse University	lenelson@syr.edu	(315) 443—9171	Conference Chair



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

2015 STEP Statewide Student Conference ▪ Albany Marriott ▪ March 27, 2015 to March 29, 2015

INSTITUTION INFORMATION AND CONTACT PERSON

*Name:			
Position:			
Institution:			
Address:			
City:	State:	Zip Code:	
Telephone Number:	Fax Number:	E-mail Address:	

* This person will be considered the **PRIMARY CONTACT** for information pertaining to the conference.

REGISTRATION FEES PER INSTITUTION

Each conference attendee is required to pay a per person registration fee, which is *non-refundable*. The CONFERENCE REGISTRATION fee **does not cover** hotel/lodging. The fee covers the costs associated with the keynote speaker, workshop presenters, poster presentation judges, conference books, conference bags, entertainment, and other conference related activities.

Please note: The **Albany Marriott Hotel Reservation Form will be emailed to institutions AFTER REGISTRATION FEES** have been paid to Syracuse University. **Each institution is responsible for registering ALL INSTITUTION PARTICIPANTS DIRECTLY with the Albany Marriott Hotel (see page 4).** This registration fee does *not* cover hotel/lodging. The conference does not pay for students or staff hotel accommodations.

REGISTRATION FEES AND DEADLINES	2015 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES <i>(per person rate)</i>
Early Registration Fee <i>(Must be Received By January 23, 2015)</i>	\$175.00/per person
Regular Registration Fee <i>(Must be Received By February 6, 2015)</i>	\$200.00/per person
Late Registration Fee <i>(Must be Received By February 20, 2015)</i>	\$225.00/per person

- The **maximum number of registrants** per institution is twenty (20).
- The **registration rate will be determined by the postmark** date of the registration submission. **Registration delivered to Syracuse University after February 20, 2015 will not be accepted.**
 - **The LAST DAY to register for the 2015 STEP Statewide Student Conference is Friday, February 20, 2015!**
- Registration forms submitted without full payment will **not be processed**.
- Registration fees will **ONLY** be accepted in the **FORM OF INSTITUTIONAL CHECKS** or Money Orders!
 - *****Personal checks, cash, credit cards, and electronic transfer of funds are not acceptable forms of payment.*****
- **Checks and money orders should be made payable to: Syracuse University STEP Conference**
- Payment should be mailed to: Dr. Leonese Nelson ▪ Syracuse University ▪ Office of College Prep Programs (STEP Program) 111 Waverly Avenue, Suite 230 ▪ Syracuse, New York, 13244

CONFERENCE REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Please note that the names listed in the following two sections are for conference registration purposes ONLY. These names will be used for name tags, conference materials (*such as bags and books*), and the student research poster competition. ***We will not register your participants for hotel or lodging (see page 4). Please ensure that names are spelled correctly and are typed or legibly written.***

STUDENT PARTICIPANT NAMES

There **must be one adult chaperone** for every 4 students registered by your institution. The **maximum number of registrants per institution** is TWENTY (20). Registrants are project administrators, grant administrators, students, staff, parents, instructors, volunteers, chaperones, faculty sponsors, vice president, administrators' children and/or spouses.

	First Name	Last Name	Gender	Grade in School	T-Shirt Sizes	Sunday Box Lunches	Special Dietary Needs
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

*** **T-shirt Sizes:** {S = Small, M = Medium, L = Large, XL = Extra Large, 2XL, and 3XL.} ***

*** **Sunday Box Lunch Selections:** {H = Ham, RB = Roast Beef, T = Turkey, or V = Vegetarian} ***

***Please identify the following **Dietary Needs** next to Registrant Names. *Dietary needs include: gluten free, peanut allergies, lactose intolerance, vegetarian, vegan, kosher diet, shellfish, etc.*

CONFERENCE REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Please note that the names listed in the following two sections are for conference registration purposes ONLY. These names will be used for name tags, conference materials (*such as bags and books*), and the student research poster competition. ***We will not register your participants for hotel or lodging (see page 4). Please ensure that names are spelled correctly and are typed or legibly written.***

PROFESSIONAL STAFF & GUEST NAMES

There **MUST be one adult chaperone** for every 4 students registered by your institution. The **maximum number of registrants per institution** is TWENTY (20). Registrants are project administrators, students, staff, parents, instructors, volunteers, chaperones, faculty sponsors, vice president, administrators' children and their spouses.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF & GUEST NAMES

	First Name	Last Name	Title (Dr., Mr., Mrs., or Ms.)	Chaperone	T-Shirt Sizes	Sunday Box Lunches	Special Dietary Needs
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							

*** **T-shirt Sizes:** {S = Small, M = Medium, L = Large, XL = Extra Large, 2XL, and 3XL.} ***

*** **Sunday Box Lunch Selections:** {H = Ham, RB = Roast Beef, T = Turkey, or V = Vegetarian} ***

***Please identify the following **Dietary Needs** next to Registrant Names. *Dietary needs include: gluten free, peanut allergies, lactose intolerance, vegetarian, vegan, kosher diet, shellfish, etc.*

The maximum number of registrants per institution is TWENTY (20). There will be no exception to the maximum number of registrants per institution!

TRANSPORTATION PROFILE

Each institution must complete and submit a Transportation Profile Form. *(A completed registration packet includes this page!)*

1. Please indicate mode of transportation and the number of vehicles: (i.e. 2 buses, 1 van)

- Bus Number of Buses _____
- Van Number of Vans _____
- Car Number of Cars _____

2. Are you car pooling with another institution? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, which one(s) _____

3. Estimated time of arrival on **Friday, March 27, 2015**: _____

** The hotel check in time is 4:00pm on Friday, March 27, 2015.

4. Estimated time of departure (*if later than 12:00pm on Sunday, March 29, 2015*): _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PROCESS

STEP 1: Registration Fees

Please **print and send this completed form** with your registration fees (*institutional check or money order*) for a maximum of 20 participants directly to Syracuse University. The conference registration fee does not cover hotel/lodging at the Marriott Hotel – conference site.

***Research Foundations should place the name of the institution within the memo section of the check.

*****Personal checks, cash, credit cards, and electronic transfer of funds are not acceptable forms of payment.*****

STEP 2: Albany Marriott Hotel Reservation Form Submission

The Albany Marriott Hotel Reservation Form **will be emailed** to institutions **AFTER THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES have been paid to Syracuse University**. Each institution is responsible for registering all institution participants (*a maximum of 20 participants*) **directly with the Albany Marriott Hotel** by using the Hotel Reservation Form.

The maximum number of registrants per institution is TWENTY (20). There will be no exception to the maximum number of registrants per institution!

• The LAST DAY to register for the 2015 STEP Statewide Student Conference is Friday, February 20, 2015!

***Please retain a copy of this packet for your records!*

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES & RUBRIC

Saturday, March 28, 2015
Albany Marriott- Albany, New York

The following criteria have been developed to guide the planning and development of student research poster presentations. **Please note, that there will only be 90 poster abstracts accepted.** Due to an increase in the number of students and institutions desiring to participate in the poster presentation competition, **a maximum of 3 posters from each institution will be accepted.** Poster abstracts will be **accepted on a first come first serve basis** until all the spaces have been filled.

Students are strongly encouraged to conduct actual research before submitting a project for this competition. **All abstracts AND bibliographies must be submitted by 4:00pm Tuesday, January 27, 2015** via the ONLINE SUBMISSION PROCESS.

Institutions should not submit more than 3 abstracts for the poster competition. Institutions that exceed the submission entries limit of THREE (3) will have all of its posters/abstracts eliminated from the competition.

RESEARCH POSTER COMPETITION GUIDELINES

POSTER REQUIREMENTS

- A poster display is mandatory for the Student Research Poster Competition.
- 36 x 48 inches (Tri-fold Display Board)- Posters that exceed these measurements will have **FIVE (5) points deducted** from the final score.
- The display board should be freestanding.
- Each student is allowed a maximum of **ONE (1) POSTER**, and is responsible for **any special equipment** (*i.e. display boards, extension cords, laptops, iPads, LCD Projector, Internet access, etc.*).

1. ABSTRACT INFORMATION

- Each abstract should **not exceed 150 words in length.**
- Abstracts that are **more than 150 words in length** *will not be accepted* for the competition.
- Include presenter's name, co-presenters, project title, institution name, grade in school, Poster Abstract Number (1, 2, or 3), poster division (**see section 2A**), poster category (**see section 2B**), judging category (**see section 2C**), faculty sponsor, and abstract word count. ***A maximum of 4 presenters per poster*** (*i.e. primary presenter and three co-presenters*).
- Include a **problem statement, methods, materials, results and conclusion.**

The Basic Components of an Abstract

1. **Problem Statement:**
 - a. Why is this a relevant research project?
 - b. What practical, theoretical or scientific gap is your research filling?
 - c. What is the problem or questions to be addressed in the project?
2. **Methods/Procedures:**
 - a. What steps did you take to complete this research project?
 - b. What did you do to analyze your data?
3. **Results/Findings:**
 - a. As a result of completing the above procedures, what did you learn, invent or create?
4. **Conclusion/Implications:**
 - a. What were your research findings? What are the larger implications of your findings?

Please visit www.stepforleaders.org for examples of abstracts for posters presented during the 2014 STEP Statewide Student Conference Research Poster Competition Conference Booklet.

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE

STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES & RUBRIC

Saturday, March 28, 2015
Albany Marriott- Albany, New York

2A. POSTER DIVISION

Posters will be judged in **THREE DIVISIONS**. Please selection **ONE (1) of the three divisions****:

- **Middle Division**- Students in grades 7 and 8.
- **Junior Division**- Students in grades 9 and 10.
- **Senior Division**- Students in grades 11 and 12.

}

Divisions may be combined based on the number of poster entries.

**** If multiple grade levels present a project, the division will be assigned based on the highest-grade level.**

2B. CATEGORY OF PRESENTATION

Students must **CHOOSE ONE (1) of the following FIVE categories** for presentation entry. Categories may be combined based on the number of entries.

1. Biological/Life Sciences

Projects that investigate some aspect of life- Biology, Botany, Ecology, the Environment, Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, etc. [*Example: Genetics and Heredity or The Effect of Sound on Plants*]

2. Human Services

Projects that study human conditions pertaining to disease, families, children, safety, wellness, aging, human service agencies and the impact on the community, etc. [*Example: Health Department's Student about Bacterial Meningitis and Teenagers*]

3. Physical Sciences

Projects that research modern findings in Astronomy, Chemistry, Earth Science, Material Sciences, Physics, the history and policy of science, etc. [*Example: Observation of Freezing Rates of Water on Different Starting Temperatures*]

4. Social Sciences

Projects that explore important subject matter in Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, History, Geography, etc. [*Example: Violence in Middle and High Schools of The Effects of the Media and Pop Culture on Students*]

5. Technology

Projects that analyze technological advances such as robotics, fiber optics, computer science and programs, computer games, engineering, architect, engineering technology, Computer Aided Design (CAD), graphics, etc. [*Example: Virtual Homework Lockers for Students and Teachers*]

2C. JUDGING CRITERIA

There will be a team of judges for each category. Criteria for judging will include, but may not be limited to the items listed below.

Overall Project

- Statement of Purpose
- Documentation/Impact
- Significance/Impact
- Creativity or Initiative
- Methodology

Exhibit of Display (A Poster is mandatory for the Student Research Poster Competition.)

- Poster should be 36 x 48 inches (Tri-fold Display Board)- Posters that exceed these measurements will have **FIVE (5) points deducted from the final score.**
- Visual appearance of project display

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE

STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES & RUBRIC

Saturday, March 28, 2015

Albany Marriott- Albany, New York

Presenter's Oral Discussion of the Project

- 2 – 3 minute overview of project
- 2 – 3 minute question and answer session
- Presenters should **practice his/her presentation** to remain in the time limit.

Rating Scale

- Judges will use [THE ENCLOSED RUBRIC](#) to rate students' presentations in the following areas:
 - Abstract
 - Research Design
 - Visual and Verbal Presentations
 - Conclusion
 - Bibliography/References

****Failure to include a list of references will result in FIVE (5) point deduction from the project.**

3. BIBLIOGRAPHY INFORMATION

- A list of references/bibliography should be **ONE (1) page, double-spaced, have one-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font.**
- A list of references/bibliography should be submitted for each poster abstract entered in the Student Research Poster Presentation Competition.
- **References/bibliographies must be submitted online via the ONLINE SUBMISSION process.**
- References/bibliographies **faxed, emailed or mailed** to Syracuse University's STEP Office **will not be accepted for the competition.**

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE

STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES & RUBRIC

Saturday, March 28, 2015
Albany Marriott- Albany, New York

WHAT IS AN ABSTRACT?

An **ABSTRACT** is a brief summary of your project. It summarizes very clearly the main points of your experiment. **Abstracts should include problem statement, methods, materials, results and conclusions.**

The Basic Components of an Abstract:

1. **Problem Statement**
 - a. Why is this a relevant research project?
 - b. What practical, theoretical, or scientific gap is your research filling?
 - c. What is the problem or question to be addressed in the project?
2. **Methods/Procedures:**
 - a. What steps did you take to complete this research project?
 - b. What did you do to analyze your data?
3. **Results/Findings:**
 - a. As a result of completing the above procedures, what did you learn, invent or create?
4. **Conclusion/Implications:**
 - a. What were your research findings? What are the larger implications of your findings?

SAMPLE ABSTRACT

Up and Down: Seasonal Temperature versus Sun Ray Angle

The **purpose of this project** was to find out whether the angle of the Sun's rays at noon affects seasonal temperatures. The experiments involved measuring the air temperature and the angle of the Sun's rays at noon during different seasons. This was done by recording air temperature and measuring the angle of shadows at noon on the first day of the month from October through April.

The **measurements confirmed my hypothesis** that as the angle of the Sun's rays decreases during the year, the outdoor temperature increases. These **findings** led me to believe that seasonal temperatures are the result of the difference in the angle of the Sun's rays. As the ray angle decreases, sunlight is more concentrated on an area, resulting in a higher temperature.

I discovered that during seasons with high temperatures, the angle of the Sun's rays is lower than during seasons with low temperatures.

Please visit www.stepforleaders.org for examples of abstracts for posters presented during the 2014 STEP Statewide Student Conference Research Poster Competition Conference Booklet.

WHAT IS A BIBLIOGRAPHY?

A **BIBLIOGRAPHY** is a reference list that identifies books, articles, peer-reviewed journals, etc. that are mentioned, referenced or used in a text.

All references should be in APA style, please see tutorials below to help create your bibliography.

<http://www.apastyle.org/learn/tutorials/basics-tutorial.aspx>

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

2015 STEP STATEWIDE STUDENT CONFERENCE STUDENT RESEARCH POSTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES & RUBRIC

Saturday, March 28, 2015
Albany Marriott- Albany, New York

POSTER COMPETITION REGISTRATION, ABSTRACT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

ONLINE REGISTRATION, ABSTRACT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Abstracts AND bibliographies must be submitted by **4:00pm Tuesday, January 27th, 2015.**
- Abstracts AND bibliographies faxed, emailed or mailed to Syracuse University's STEP Office *will not be accepted* for the student research poster competition.
- Project Administrators should complete the ONLINE SUBMISSION PROCESS. Project Administrators will be required to submit their name when submitting each poster project. *Students, their parents, faculty mentors or teachers SHOULD NOT complete the online submission process.*
- **To complete the REGISTRATION PROCESS and to submit your POSTER ABSTRACT AND BIBLIOGRAPHY**, please copy or past into your browser the link below and follow the instructions on the website:

[2015 Student Research Poster Presentation Registration](#) or <http://goo.gl/forms/YH0jZHa8ua>

Please ensure that the information is **entered accurately** (*spelling, capitalization, punctuation, etc.*). This is the information that will be used to compile the conference booklet and competition. Errors in submission will likely become errors in the publication and the competition.

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
ABSTRACT GUIDELINES				
Format	Abstracts follow all formatting rules: 1 page, double-spaced, one-inch margins. Font size 12 in Times New Roman; Does not exceed 150 words; Includes: Presenters name, Grade in School, Institution Name, Abstract Number, & Project Title	One or two elements of formatting rules (see left) are incorrect	More than one or two elements of formatting rules (see left) are incorrect	The student did not follow several of the formatting rules.
CONTENT				
Introduction (What is the Objective and Scope of the Investigation?)	Describes the problem & why this work was needed; Makes connections between the problem, the context and the purpose of the investigation	Describes problem & why this work was needed. Makes connections between the problem, the context and the purpose of the investigation.	Description the problem but makes only implicit or superficial connections between the problem, the context and the purpose of the investigation.	Does not adequately describe the problem or why the work was needed; Does not make connections between the problem, the context and the purpose of the investigation.
Methods (Summary of what the student did)	Describes the method of research, study or analysis applied to the problem. Specific and concise.	Describes the method of research, study or analysis applied to the problem but lacks one or two relevant specifics or is wordy.	Describes the method of research, study or analysis applied to the problem but lacks more than two relevant details or is overly wordy.	Does not adequately describe the method of research, study or analysis applied to the problem.
Results (What were the principle findings?)	Summarizes the major results of the project. Specific and concise	Summarizes the major results of the project but lacks one or two specifics or is wordy.	Summarizes major results of the project but lacks more than two relevant specifics or is overly wordy.	Does not adequately report the major results of the project.

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
<p>Discussion (What are the principle conclusions of the study?)</p>	<p>Provides an interpretation and relates results back to the problem; States the relevance, implications, or significance of the results to the broader context of the topic. Makes recommendations or states implications for future work.</p>	<p>Provides an interpretation and relates results back to the problem and to a broader context, but these sections may lack specifics or be overly wordy. Makes recommendations or states implications for future work.</p>	<p>Provides superficial or tangential interpretation of results. Attempts to relate results back to the problem and context but connections are superficial. May not make recommendations for future work.</p>	<p>Does not provide adequate interpretation of results and does not relate results back to the context or original problem. Does not make recommendations for future work.</p>

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
POSTER GUIDELINES				
CONTENT				
Introduction & Hypothesis	Background information was relevant and summarized well. Clear connections to previous literature and broader issues. Had a goal or a logical hypothesis that showed clear relevance. Broad impact beyond project clearly stated.	A logical hypothesis or goal was presented. Background information was relevant, but connections were not clear. Goal of project or a logical hypothesis was stated clearly, showed relevance beyond project.	A questionable hypothesis or project goal was presented. Background information was relevant, but connections were not made.	The hypothesis or goal was inappropriate or not stated. Little or no background information was included or connected.
Methods & Experimental Logic	Excellent choice of experimental methods to address hypothesis or goal of project.	Good choice of experimental methods to address hypothesis or project goal.	Method not appropriate to address hypothesis or goal of project.	Methods section insufficient or missing.
Procedures	Procedures were used correctly; Clear discussion and inclusion of controls or comparative groups	Procedures were used correctly; Adequate discussion of controls or comparative groups; lacks some controls or comparative groups.	Procedures were not always followed consistently; Controls or comparative groups not adequately described; some controls or comparative groups missing.	Procedures (if applicable) were not used correctly; Serious lack of controls or discussion of controls.
Results	Substantial amounts of high quality data presented; sufficient to address hypothesis. Presentation of data was clear, thorough and logical. Addresses potential problems and alternative approaches.	Substantial amounts of good data were presented; sufficient to address the hypothesis or goal of project. Presentation of data was clear and logical.	Adequate amounts of reasonably good data were presented to address hypothesis or project goals. Presentation of data was not entirely clear.	Some data were lacking, not fully sufficient to address hypothesis or project goal. Presentation of data was either not included or very unclear & difficult to comprehend.

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
Discussion & Conclusions	Reasonable conclusions were given and strongly supported with evidence. Conclusion was connected to the project hypothesis and relevance in a wider context was discussed.	Reasonable conclusions were given and supported with evidence. Conclusion was connected to hypothesis but relevance was not discussed.	Reasonable conclusions were given. Conclusions were not compared to the hypothesis or project goal and their relevance was not discussed.	Loose or unsupported conclusions were given. Little or no connection to hypothesis or goal was apparent.

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
VISUAL PRESENTATION				
Organization	All expected components are present, clearly laid out, and easy to follow in the absence of the presenter.	All components are present, but layout is crowded or confusing to follow in absence of presenter.	Most expected components are present, but layout is confusing to follow in the absence of the presenter.	Some of the expected components are present, but poorly laid out and confusing to follow.
Background and Graphics	Text is clear and readable at a distance of three feet. Background is unobtrusive. Figures and tables are appropriate and labeled correctly. Photos, tables and graphs improve understanding and enhance visual appeal.	Text is relatively clear & most is readable from a distance of three feet. Background is unobtrusive. Most figures and tables are appropriate and labeled correctly. Photos, tables and graphs improve understanding.	Text is relatively clear, but font may be distracting or too small to read at 3 feet. Background may be distracting. Figures and tables not always related to text, are not appropriate, or are poorly labeled. Photos, tables & graphs limited and do not improve understanding.	Text is hard to read due to font size or color. Background may be distracting. Figures and tables poorly done and do not relate to the text, are not appropriate or are poorly labeled. Visual aids are limited or absent & do not improve understanding.

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
ORAL PRESENTATION GUIDELINES				
NON-VERBAL SKILLS				
Eye Contact	Holds attention of audience with the use of direct eye contact, seldom looks at notes.	Consistent use of direct eye contact with audience, but still returns to notes.	Minimal eye contact with audience, while reading mostly from the notes.	No eye contact with audience, as entire report is read from notes.
Body Language	Movements seem fluid and help the audience visualize.	Movements or gestures enhance articulation.	Very little movement or descriptive gestures.	No movement or descriptive gestures.
Poise	Student displays relaxed, self-confident nature, with no mistakes.	Makes minor mistakes, but quickly recovers from them; displays little or no tension.	Displays mild tension; has trouble recovering from mistakes.	Tension and nervousness is obvious; has trouble recovering from mistakes.
VERBAL SKILLS				
Enthusiasm	Demonstrates a strong, positive feeling about the topic during the entire presentation.	Occasionally shows positive feelings about the topic.	Shows some negativity toward the topic presented.	Shows absolutely no interest in the topic presented.
Elocution	Student uses a clear voice and correct, precise pronunciation of terms; All audience members can hear the presentation.	Student's voice is clear, & pronounces most words correctly. Most of audience can hear the presentation.	Student's voice is low; Incorrectly pronounces terms. Audience members have difficulty hearing presentation.	Student mumbles, incorrect pronunciation, speaks too quietly for most of audience to hear the presentation
CONTENT				
Subject Knowledge	Student demonstrates full knowledge; answers questions with explanations & elaboration.	Student is at ease with expected questions, does not elaborate on answers.	Student is uncomfortable with information; Able to answer only rudimentary questions.	Student does not have grasp of information; Cannot answer questions about subject.
Organization	Student presents information in logical, interesting sequence which follows the abstract. Helps audience understand relationships among ideas by using organization aids (announcing topics, transitions, summarizing).	Student presents information in logical sequence which follows the abstract. Audience has no difficulty understanding relationships among the ideas. The ideas in the message can outlined easily.	Organization is incoherent. Audience has difficulty following; Student jumps around and does not follow the abstract; Audience must make assumptions about relationships among ideas.	Audience cannot understand presentation because there is no clear sequence of information. The message is so disorganized the audience cannot understand most of the message.

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
Awareness of Audience	Significantly increases audience understanding and knowledge of topic; Effectively convinces an audience to recognize the validity of a point of view.	Raises audience understanding & awareness of most points; Clear point of view, development or support is inconclusive or incomplete.	Raises audience understanding and knowledge of some points. Point of view may be clear, but lacks development or support.	Fails to increase audience understanding of knowledge of topic; Fails to effectively convince the audience.
GENERAL GUIDELINES APPLYING TO ENTIRE SUBMISSION				
Clarity, Spelling, and Grammar	All elements of the submission are well organized. Contains no errors in spelling or grammar. Defines all acronyms at their first use.	A few elements of the submission are somewhat disorganized. Contains one or two errors in spelling or grammar. Does not define one or two acronyms at first use.	The submission lacks general organization. Contains more than two errors in spelling or grammar Does not define more than two acronyms at their first use.	The submission is completely unclear: there are missing sections, several points are not clearly described. Contains more than two errors in spelling or grammar Does not define more than two acronyms at their first use.
CONTENT				
Authorship	The student is primarily responsible for the work presented.	Student is mostly responsible for the work but outside assistance is apparent.	Student is only partially responsible for the work presented.	The student is largely not responsible for the work presented.
Accuracy	All content throughout the presentation is accurate. There are no factual errors.	Most of the content is accurate but there is one piece of information that seems inaccurate.	The content is generally accurate, but one piece of information is clearly inaccurate.	Content confusing or contains more than one factual error.
Comprehensiveness	Project includes all material needed to give a good understanding of the topic. Presentation corresponds to academic area selected.	Project is lacking one or two key elements. Presentation corresponds to academic area selected.	Project is missing more than two key elements.	Project is lacking several key elements and has inaccuracies.
Coherence	All content is carefully chosen to develop the student's thesis. There is no extraneous information.	Content is carefully chosen to develop the student's thesis. There may be a few extraneous points	Some content is not consistent with the student's thesis. There is a moderate amount of extraneous information.	Most content is inconsistent with the student's thesis and is difficult to follow because there is so much extraneous information.

STEP Student Research Poster Presentation Rubric

CATEGORY	4 = Excellent	3 = Good	2 = Satisfactory	1 = Needs Improvement
References/ Bibliography	Information is supported by authentic print resources; All resources are cited correctly, using a consistent format.	One or two references are missing or reference formats are inconsistent.	More than two references are missing or information is cited using the incorrect format.	Very few (or no) references are provided to support the information presented.
Originality and Creativity	Excellent original thinking or creative innovation of technique. Very original presentation of material; Captures audience's attention.	Good original thinking and creativity; Good variety and blending of materials & media	Minimal original thinking or creativity. Little or no variation; material presented with little originality or interpretation	No original thinking or creativity. Repetitive with little or no variety; insufficient use of materials or media