



2021 National Contest Guidelines

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

February 15, 2021

Applies to all divisions including general contest, undergraduate, and graduate

National Society for MANRRS

Annual Career Fair and Training Conference Student Competitions

Introduction

MANRRS has emphasized the importance to provide a myriad of opportunities for members to create a robust platform by demonstrating talent to achieve future goals. As a competition contestant, MANRRS 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. Members have opportunities to effectively develop, enhance and express competencies in each competition; while, acquiring a network, scholarships, internships, and full-time positions.

General Benefits to Participants

- A new opportunity to show your talent and apply your skills through comprehensive research.
- Connect with top employers and peers with confidence.
- Build your resume in an enjoyable atmosphere.
- Challenge yourself to speak concisely while conveying ideas effectively.
- Realize your dream by engaging in critical thinking deliberations.
- Develop core competencies:
 - Fostering teamwork
 - Influencing without authority
 - Building relationships
 - Analytical thinking
 - Critical thinking
 - Flexibility

Application Deadline

All contestants must submit their application package for the appropriate contest by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on **February 15, 2021**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for participation.

Submission

Electronic submission only at <http://info.manrrs.org/2021-contest-submission>

Faxed or emailed submissions are not accepted.

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2021 National Conference Descriptions

1. **It is Back...Conference Theme Contest:** The MANRRS Executive Committee is seeking suggestions from its members for the MANRRS 2022 Conference theme. All MANRRS member are encouraged to participate!
2. **MANRRS Bowl:** A competition for MANRRS chapters to participate in at the National level. Through this competition, we will increase and test the knowledge of MANRRS members on MANRRS history and topics regarding agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
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. **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. 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.
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 communicate effectively in the workplace and in leadership and management positions.
8. **Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences Photography Contest:** The purpose of the MANRRS Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences Photography contest is to provide MANRRS members the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and science in an artistic form.

9. **Impromptu Public Speaking:** This contest develops the ability of all MANRRS members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. The 1st and 2nd place winners of each respective region qualifies for the National competition.
10. **Business Pitch Contest:** Have an idea for new business or non-profit you would like to start? Think “Shark Tank” meets MANRRS!
11. **Elevator Speech Contest:** Active undergraduate and graduate members of MANRRS who attend the regional clusters are eligible to participate.
12. **Three Minute Thesis:** Originally, the Three Minute Thesis (3MT ®) competition was developed by The University of Queensland to celebrate the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. The contest was developed to cultivate students’ academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The MANRRS 3MT has been adapted to provide this opportunity to all graduate student members in good standing within the national organization.
13. **Interview Contest:** The Interview Contest is an opportunity to practice the real-life skills needed to apply for a job. Participants prepare a resume and cover letter for a mock job they choose from the Interview Contest Job Descriptions.

Contest Application Procedure

1. **Submission:** A completed electronic MANRRS submission form for contests is required for each individual entry at <http://info.manrrs.org/2021-contest-submission>
2. Electronic submission is required for all contests, except for the Impromptu Speaking, Elevator Speech, Interview Contest, and the Three- Minute Thesis Contests, which contestants are pre-qualified at the regionals.
3. All entries must be RECEIVED by 11:59 PM EST **February 15, 2021**. Late entries will not be accepted, no exceptions. Participants should receive an automated confirmation upon successful submission of contest entry. Participants will be notified of receipt of their items.
4. Entries submitted to the wrong contest or division will not be accepted.
5. **Requirements for Entry:** Presenters are required to be undergraduate or graduate student members and must attend the national conference. Entrants' must appear on the national register of the National Society of MANRRS on or before the contest deadline. No waiver of conference registration fee is granted to participants. The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify the research is the work of the presenter.
6. **Appeal Decision:** After the initial review by the Contest Superintendent, submissions are then forwarded to the respective judges. All decisions of the Contest Superintendent are final. There is no appeal process or opportunity to resubmit once a submission is rejected. Therefore, students are encouraged to closely follow the instructions and view samples as instructed.
7. The top ten finalists for the following contests will present at the National Conference competitively: Oral Research and Research Poster. Participants not in the top ten will have the option to present their research at the national conference during the Research Symposium for training purposes.
8. **PLEASE FOLLOW THE ABSTRACT GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.** Abstracts should be submitted electronically in pdf. 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.
9. Any questions regarding contest submissions should be directed to contest@manrrs.org

MANRRS Abstract Guidelines

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS

1. Type Abstracts with one-inch margins and single spacing except between title and authors and between the bodies of abstract. See attached sample abstract. Must be in Microsoft Word format.
2. Participants must submit Abstracts and essays online electronically by the posted deadline.
3. Capitalize entire title as shown on the sample abstract.
4. 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. List the College/University and location following the name. Skip one line before starting the text.
5. Abstract must be 300 words or LESS and must include:
 - a. *Introduction/statement of problem*
 - b. *Objective*
 - c. *Methodology*
 - d. *Results and Conclusion section that includes significant findings and implications.*The text should cite quantitative data from representative experiments.
6. Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations, or references in your abstract.
7. Enter three keywords as indicated in the sample abstract. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of your paper.
8. Refer to sample abstract below for proper format.

MANRRS OFFICIAL ABSTRACT SAMPLE: 300 WORD ABSTRACT

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.

MANRRS Theme Contest

General Description

The MANRRS Executive Committee is soliciting your recommendations for the theme of the 2022, 36th National Annual Conference and Career Expo. All MANRRS members are encouraged to enter this contest.

Competencies

- Creative Thinking
- Decision Making
- Innovative

Application Requirements

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 35 years.
2. An optional 500-word essay (maximum) elaborating on what the theme means to the contestant and how does it fit the MANRRS mission, history and future needs to be submitted.
3. Only one submission per member is allowed.
4. The MANRRS member that submits the winning theme will be awarded **\$200.00**.

Awards: The MANRRS member that submits the winning theme will be awarded \$200.00.

The theme for the 2022 National Conference will be announced at the 2021 National Conference.

MANRRS BOWL

General Description

- a. To increase and test the knowledge of MANRRS Members on MANRRS/MANRRS History and topics regarding agriculture, natural resources, and related sciences.
- b. To increase and further encourage Regional pride and support of Chapters within Regions, along with friendly competition.

Competencies

- Develops listening skills
- Builds teamwork
- Competitive fun

Application Requirements

Participants & Eligibility:

- A. Only MANRRS Chapters in Good Standing are eligible to participate.
- B. Each member of a team must be a MANRRS, Undergraduate or Graduate student, and a registered student at the university he or she is representing during the spring semester of the competition. To participate in the MANRRS Bowl, students must be in good academic standing.
- C. Teams must consist of four students and three alternates (optional).
 - a. We highly encourage graduate student participation; however, a team cannot have more than two graduate students per team.
 - b. One team member will be designated the captain.
 - c. Chapters designate who will serve in this capacity. This person will serve as the main liaison between the MANRRS Bowl Superintendent and their Chapter.

How to Participate: Teams are required to submit the following by the submission deadline for eligibility for competition at the Annual Career Fair & Training Conference MANRRS Bowl Competition:

- A. Application (.pdf document)
 - a. Team Captain Name
 - b. Contact Information (mobile and email)
 - c. University
 - d. Team Name and Team Members' Names and Classification (FR, JR, etc.)
 - e. Alternate Team Members' Names and Classification (*optional*)
- B. Questions and Answers (Excel file)
 - a. Teams must submit questions and answers (25 total) as part of the team's application.

- b. Questions submitted must be short answer and/or multiple choice. True/False and Yes/No, questions are NOT accepted.
- c. Within the 25 questions, teams must cover four categories with a minimum of three questions per category. Questions are derived from subjects within MANRRS, MANRRS Trivia, History, Facts, Constitution, etc.

	CATEGORY	QUESTION	ANSWER	SUBMISSION SOURCE	URL
Sample Q&A (1)	MANRRS Trivia/Facts	In which city and state is the National MANRRS Headquarters located?	Atlanta, Georgia	MANRRS website	www.manrs.org
Sample Q&A (2)	Animal Science	From which ovary does a hen ovulate?	Left	Poultry Extension	poultry.extension.org
Sample Q&A (3)	Government	Which U.S. federal agency is responsible for regulating meat, poultry, and egg products?	The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)	About Food Safety	https://www.foodsafety.gov/

Application Procedures

Layout of MANRRS Bowl:

1. Chapters organize teams within their respective institutions; and the individual teams will study given topics and sample questions to compete at the National Annual Conference and Training Conference.
2. Teams will compete against other Chapters, from different or the same region.
3. Teams will go through a single or double elimination bracket competition depending upon the number of Chapters that are qualified to compete in the competition.
4. The remaining two teams will compete to determine the winner and the overall title of MANRRS Bowl Champions for the respective year.

Undergraduate and Graduate Oral Research Contest

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 has two divisions:

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

Competencies

- Creative Thinking
- Communication
- Self- Development
- Critical Thinking

Application Requirements

The student's chapter advisor or faculty research advisor must certify the research is the work of the presenter. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes, including two minutes for questions and answers. **PLEASE FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF YOUR ABSTRACT.**

All entries must be received by the contest deadline. Participants will be notified of the receipt of their abstract. Contestants are asked to be familiar with the equipment and usage. A penalty (deduction of three points) is imposed on those who do not know how to use the equipment properly.

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

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

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

Awards: 1st Place - \$300; 2nd Place - \$200; 3rd Place - \$100

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Undergraduate and Graduate Research Poster Contest

General Description

This session provides an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to gain experience and exposure before an audience, while highlighting the research in which they are currently involved.

The competition has two divisions:

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

Competencies

- Creative Thinking
- Driving Results
- Self- Development
- Critical Thinking

Application Requirements

The student's faculty Research Advisor must certify the research is the work of the presenter. Posters can enter as "Competitive" or "Non-Competitive." Entries cannot be duplicated and entered in the Student Oral Research Contest.

Awards: 1st Place - \$300; 2nd Place - \$200; 3rd Place - \$100

Research Poster Competition

General Description

The MANRRS research poster competition contains two divisions. All participants will have a designated time to be present their poster for attendees to learn more about their research:

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

Each symposium has two divisions:

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

Competencies

- Creative Thinking
- Professional Development
- Critical Thinking

Requirements

Competition/Symposium Guidelines

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

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

Abstract Requirements

Abstracts must be prepared according to the general guidelines for MANRRS abstract submissions. Research poster abstracts should be prepared as follows:

- The author presenting the paper must be denoted by an asterisk (*) at the end of his/her full name. The College/University and location should be listed following the name.
- Abstract text should cite quantitative data from representative experiments.

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- Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in the abstract.
- Enter three keywords to describe the project. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of the paper.
- Abstracts will be evaluated by a panel of judge sand scored on a 0-25 scale.

Poster Requirements

Posters must be prepared according to the following general guidelines:

- **The posters need to be 2 feet high by 3 feet wide (24 x 36).** The poster must be carefully planned, clear and concise. It should contain a brief statement of the purpose of the work, experimental methodology and design, and the major results of the findings and their implications. **POSTERS WILL NOT BE PRINTED.**
- Lettering for the heading must be at least 1 inch in height. Lettering for authors, and sponsoring institution must be at least ¾ inch high. All other type must be at least ¼ inch high. The poster must be readable from 4 or more feet. The text should be printed from a laser printer, in a font size large enough to read from that distance. When preparing the poster, do not use free hand printed lettering.
- Numerals and letters, included in the figures and tables, must be at least ¼ inch high. The final size any figure or able will depend on the complexity of the information, but it should not be less than 8” x 10”. Back lighted photographs, sound or projection equipment, freestanding displays are prohibited.
- These requirements are for both the competitive and non-competitive divisions. Posters in the competitive division are scored on a 0-75 scale. Presenters DO NOT submit a copy of the poster with the initial submission.

Entry Information

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

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

Awards: 1st Place - \$300; 2nd Place - \$200; 3rd Place - \$100

National Essay Contest

General Description

This contest provides an opportunity for students to gain experience in expressing themselves through writing.

Competencies

- Creation and Development
- Communication for results
- Producing clear, concise, logical grammar
- Organization and Structure

Application Requirements

The national essay contest is open to undergraduate students who are current members of MANRRS through chapter membership or individual membership. **Instructions for essay preparation:**

- ***Choose a topic related to food justice issues and formulate a novel solution to address resolving the issue.***
- Essays should be typewritten with one-inch margins and saved in pdf format file.
- 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 authors. Use one of the manuals below and indicate in the reference section which manual was used.
- A minimum of three references should be used.
- Essay format must conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) writing style. For more information, please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association. Additionally, Purdue University's writing center website has a freely available tips for APA writing (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>)

Awards: 1st Place - \$300; 2nd Place - \$200; 3rd Place - \$100

Video recordings of the 1st place winner will be used as a part of the conference program material.

National Public Speaking Contest

General Description

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

Competencies

- Creation and Development
- Communication for Results
- Producing clear, concise, logical grammar
- Organization and Structure

Application Requirements:

The national public speaking contest will be open to undergraduate students who are members of MANRRS through chapter or individual membership. All speeches must pertain to the 2020 conference theme: ***“MANRRS: Reclaiming Our Time, Territory, and Triumph.”***

- A. The electronic submission should include a pdf. version of the speech, contest coversheet, bibliography, and an electronic link to the uploaded video of your presentation.
- B. A completed contest submission form must accompany the entry.
- C. Video submission of speech shall be limited to eight minutes.
 - a. Please state your name and university before your speech.
 - b. Prior to the contest deadline set up a YouTube, Vimeo, etc. account. Please understand how to upload videos to the site you choose.
 - c. Keep the camera view wide enough to see your entire body and the equipment involved through the range of motion.

Awards: 1st Place - \$300; 2nd Place - \$200; 3rd Place - \$100

Video recordings of the 1st place winner will be used as a part of the conference program material.

National Research Discussion Contest

General Description

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. This contest is an interactive opportunity designed to help undergraduate and graduate students learn and demonstrate effective skills in an oral research-oriented discussion.

Competencies

- Knowledge of applied research methodologies
- Analytical approach to scientific questions
- Statistical analysis
- Critical Thinking

Application Requirements: The contest theme is, “What are the historical disparities that have led to the **Justice for Black Farmers Act** and what are the implications for other disenfranchised cultures?”

Instructions for Submitting Essay

Part I: Participants are to conduct an interview with a research faculty member with expertise relevant to the topic. The interview should summarize in an essay encapsulating the answer to 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 you have chosen to interview and how their career and/or professional activities have been enhanced by the research topic. Your weighted essay must include a summary of your interview discussion with said individual.
- Provide examples of how research in this field has been applied in education, industry, and/or outreach.

Part II: Participants are to submit an essay following the instructions below:

- Essays must be typed using single spacing except between title and body of the paper. Each page should have a 1” margin on all sides. Include your first name, middle initial, surname, and current mailing address at the end of the paper.
- Capitalize entire title.
- Essays must be a minimum of 750 words and no more than two (2) pages and must include:
 - Introductory paragraph
 - Body of the paper
 - Concluding paragraph
- Please do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations, or references in your essay.

Awards: 1st Place- \$300; 2nd Place- \$200; 3rd Place- \$100

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Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences

Photography Contest

General Description

The purpose of the MANRRS Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences Photography Contest is to provide MANRRS members the opportunity to express their love for agriculture and science in an artistic form.

Competencies

- Decision Making
- Detail Oriented
- Innovative
- Communication Proficiency

Application Requirements

- This contest is open to everyone but is limited to one entry per MANRRS member. A 300-word, 12-point font essay should elaborate on the art piece's inspiration and entered into one of the following categories:
 - **Category A:** "MANRRS: Reclaiming our time, territory, and triumph."
 - **Category B:** MANRRS Motto: Changing the Face of Agriculture by Linking Hands Around the World
 - **Category C:** What is your interpretation of the meaning of MANRRS?
- All photographs must be the work of the individual MANRRS member as plagiarism is prohibited and violations of any copyright laws will result in disqualification from the contest.
- Photographs must be in one of the following formats: **.jpeg .jpg .pdf or .gif**
- Photographs may be in color OR black and white.
- Photographs must be submitted as an attachment and not embedded in a document or accompanied by any written work.

Awards

- The overall first place **individual winner** will have his/her winning photograph published in the MANRRS 35th Annual Career Fair and Training Expo Program.
- The second runner up photograph will be used as additional conference program material.
- Certificates of excellence will be provided to the winners at the conference. No prize transfer, assignment, or substitution by winners permitted.

Impromptu Public Speaking Contest

General Description

The MANRRS Impromptu Public Speaking Contest is designed to develop the ability of all MANRRS members to express themselves on a given subject without having prepared or rehearsed its content in advance. This provides the MANRRS members an opportunity to gain public speaking skills and effective quick and critical thinking as they formulate their remarks for presentation in a limited amount of time. This contest requires participants to think on their feet, state their case quickly and persuasively, and to be able to answer relevant questions from the audience and judges based upon their presentation.

Competencies

- Communication
- Leadership
- Confidence
- Interpersonal Collaboration

Application Requirements

The pre-registration for the Impromptu Public Speaking contest is determined by the placement at the Regional competitions.

Contest Rules:

- Violations of any of the rules will result in the disqualification of the contestant by the contest superintendent.
- Each contestant's production will be the result of their own efforts. Facts and data may be secured from any source prior to the contest start.
- Contestants will dress in a professional manner.
- Contestants will be randomly preassigned their order of speaking and topic.

Contest Format:

- Each contestant will be granted the same time of 20 minutes for contest preparation.
- Each speech shall not be less than two or more than four minutes with three additional time allowed for related questions, which shall be asked by the contest judges.

Awards: 1st Place- \$300; 2nd Place- \$200; 3rd Place- \$100

Business Pitch Contest

General Description

Have an idea for new business or non-profit you would like to start? Then enter the MANRRS Pitch Competition! You will have 5 minutes to describe your idea, and why you think it will change your university or local community, as we know it. Your business does not have to exist just yet, but the idea & pitch must relate to agriculture, natural resources and/or environmental businesses or non-profits. Think “Shark Tank” meets MANRRS! Instead of asking for investment, our judges will award the top presenter in each section \$500 in prize money. The pitch competition will have two divisions: Undergraduate and Graduate and Professional level.

Competencies

- Problem Solving
- Strategic Thinking
- Oral Communication
- Innovation

Application Requirements: Applications may be submitted by individuals, or by teams of up to four people. However, only one person will present to the judges at the National Conference. A team of judges will select up to 10 finalists to present at the National Conference.

Application process:

Applicants must submit an on-line application consisting of:

- a. Presenter’s name, school or professional affiliation, and contact information including LinkedIn profile.
- b. Description of the business or non-profit which addresses each of the five elements listed above (a through e) totaling a maximum of 500 words.

Format:

Each presenter will give a five-minute oral presentation with the following elements:

- a. Name of the proposed business or non-profit
- b. Mission/Purpose
- c. Size of the opportunity/problem to be solved
- d. How this new business will meet the need/solve the problem (products or services to be offered and business model)
- e. Team—entrepreneur(s) backgrounds (individual or team members)

Each 5-minute presentation will be followed by 5 minutes of Q&A from the panel of judges. The presenter may use PowerPoint slides. Finalist will present their ideas but should not submit confidential or proprietary information (such as computer code, or invention descriptions if not patented). As in the real investment/funding world, ideas are not treated as confidential- it has the entrepreneurs own ability to execute that is the differentiating factor.

Awards: \$500 – Undergraduate Division \$500- Graduate Student or Profession Division

Elevator Speech Contest

General Description

The Elevator Speech Contest is to sell the brand of MANRRS to the judges and audience.

Competencies

- Oral Communication
- Delivering Results
- Taking Initiatives
- Demonstrating ethics and integrity

Application Requirements

Requirements for entry are predetermined at the Regional Cluster Competition. A single first place winner, either undergraduate or a graduate will win the contest. At random, participants will be given an order of speech presentations and present for 60 seconds. After 60 seconds, a penalty of 1 point will be deducted for every 1 second the student goes over the time limit. Additional aids, materials, or props are not permitted.

Judges criteria is based on presentation, voice, language, organization, style, and content.

Awards

To be determined



MANRRS Graduate Student Three Minute Thesis Contest

General Description

Originally, the Three Minute Thesis (3MT ®) competition was developed by The University of Queensland (UQ) to celebrate the exciting research conducted by Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students. The contest was developed to cultivate students' academic, presentation, and research communication skills. The MANRRS 3MT has been adapted to provide this opportunity to all graduate student members in good standing within the national organization. The competition supports their capacity to effectively explain their research in three minutes, in a language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

Competencies

- Communication
- Creativity

Application Requirements

Participants are required to be graduate student members pursuing masters or doctoral level degrees and must attend the conference. A single competitor for each contest division from each Region shall advance to the National Contest. This competitor will be the individual that placed in 1st. The Regional 2nd or 3rd place winner will advance to the National Contest if the 1st place winner is unable to compete. Regional 2nd or 3rd place winners will advance to the National Contest if the 1st place winner is unable to compete. Should the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winner within a Region not be available to compete, the entire Region has forfeited and will be disqualified. The Regional competitor will be required to confirm their intent to compete by the National Conference deadline. The competitors are not permitted to edit their abstract or presentation in any way. The items presented at the Regional Contest will automatically advance to the National Contest. Participants are permitted to change the content of the verbal speech associated with their presentation at their own discretion. The presentation must continue to remain within the three-minute time range. The contest superintendent shall ensure the safeguarding of all contest abstracts and presentations between the Regional and National Contest.

Abstract Requirements:

All abstracts and presentations must be submitted electronically via the MANRRS website Contest Submission Page by the deadline. All abstracts should be in Microsoft Word format. All presentations should be in PowerPoint format. The Superintendent reserves the right to reject a submission if it does not meet the established guidelines shown below. Abstracts must be prepared according to the general guidelines for MANRRS abstract submissions. 3MT abstracts should be prepared as follows:

- The author presenting the 3MT must be denoted by an asterisk (*) at the end of his/her full name. The author should be the first author and the work must be original. The College/University and location should be listed following the name. The abstract should present a general overview for the student's thesis or dissertation project.
- Do not include graphs, charts, plots, tables, illustrations or references in the abstract.
- Enter three keywords to describe the project. At least one of the keywords must be taken from the title of the paper.

Presentation Guidelines:

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description are allowed. The slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration. Slides note are not permitted for use during the presentation.
- The slide should be a standard size based on the widescreen 16:9 landscape format.
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the "stage".
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through either movement or speech.

Awards:

(Applies to both Contest Divisions)

- **1st Place** – Award Certificate, \$500, and opportunity for submission to *be used as a part of the conference program material.*
- **2nd Place** – Award Certificate and \$250
- **3rd Place** – Award Certificate and \$150

Interview Contest

General Description

The Interview Contest is an opportunity to practice the real-life skills needed to apply for a job. Participants prepare a resumé and cover letter for a mock job they choose from the Interview Contest Job Descriptions. Evaluators review their performance during a mock interview and give constructive feedback using a standard evaluation rubric.

Competencies

- Establishing comfort and confidence in an interview setting
- Critical Thinking
- Effective Verbal and Written Communication
- Evaluating Experiences for Skills and Lessons
- Evaluation Skills
- Impromptu Thinking
- Organizational Skills
- Persuasive Presentation
- Preparation Skills

Application Requirements

Participants from each Region shall advance to the National Contest. This competitor will be the individual that placed in 1st. The Regional 2nd or 3rd place winner will advance to the National Contest if the 1st place winner is unable to compete. Regional 2nd or 3rd place winners will advance to the National Contest if the 1st place winner is unable to compete. Should the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place winner within a Region not be available to compete, the entire Region has forfeited and will be disqualified. The Regional competitor will be required to confirm their intent to compete by the National Conference deadline to the Contest Superintendent.

Awards

To be determined