



Subject: Request for about an hour of your time
Date: Wed, 28 Jul 2004 09:54:28 -0400
From: Joseph J. Grabowski <joe+@pitt.edu>

Hi Folks:

<http://vulture.library.colostate.edu/nsf/>

For several years, Dr. Art Ellis, Director of the Chemistry Division at NSF, and a big proponent of publicizing research activities, has been urging the NSF-REU-LG (Leadership Group) to run an on-line poster session that includes all 67 Chemistry sites.

We (the LG) have designed a beta-test of the submission software for collecting the poster and ancillary information - the above web site.

I would like to have all 14 of you submit a poster. This can either be down after your poster is complete for the Duquesne event, or after your oral presentation.

I guesstimate it will take about an hour to do this. You have already written an abstract and cleared it with your advisor. Your presentation will be available. So besides entering the demographic data, you only need to write the Personal statement.

Personal Statement (300 words) - Describe yourself and your present career aspirations briefly here. Other questions you might consider answering: Why did you pursue undergraduate research? Did you like your experience this summer? Any acknowledgements you would like to make could go here as well.

I will make the pictures Deb took available to you (via the REU web page; you can save the one you like to your hard disk and then send that in). Our participant's web page contains the url of your school and the URL of your advisor/group. Let me know if there is other info needed that I can easily provide.

You might also work with your lab mate/advisor to define six appropriate keywords.

If you are interested, I'd be happy to help you with any aspect. I suggest you look over the whole form before you begin; then collect all the pieces parts then enter the info. We should have everything submitted before you leave at 5 pm next Friday.

Recall, this is just a prototype of the data collection. I'll let you know when we have a prototype of the presentation that you can look at. You will have an opportunity to remove it or correct it, before it goes public. Ditto your advisor.

If you do this, please keep notes on what works and what challenges you encounter, as you do it, so I can communicate those back to the rest of the LG.

Our efforts to keep the REU program alive and well-funded count on activities like this, where we can show the politicians exactly how we work with individuals and how those individuals (you guys) return the taxpayers money by the way of concrete research progress.

One challenge I see right now is IF you print your poster out on a 48-inch by 48-inch poster printer, that may not be in the format we are anticipating. So the oral presentation of the same thing, in powerpoint format might be better. Or, you may want to create something exclusively for this project.

Cheers,
Prof. G.

Subject: On-line Poster Session
Date: Thu, 29 Jul 2004 12:47:27 -0400
From: Joseph J. Grabowski <joeg+@pitt.edu>

Hi Folks:

Sorry to innudate you with emails, but....

I thought you might like a little insight into this "On-line Poster Session". What follows is a draft of the LG's thinking. It is not a polished document, and so I hope you keep that in mind.

My own concern is the actual poster itself - I'm not sure how that should actually be posted, but I will be working with Devin on this as he will HAVE to participate (if he wants his first paycheck, let alone his last one).

> Online Poster Session ideas

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> 1) This will be an online celebration rather than an interactive poster session. That is, it will present the data but visitors to the site will not be "conversing" real time with the students.

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> 2) We will collect the data about REU participants through an online application. The goal is to have it as flexible and as secure as possible. These two requirements are pretty much orthogonal so there will have to be some compromises. As we envision the collection site, it will allow either/or students or PIs to input data. This should allow the most flexibility for individual sites.

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> 3) We plan to use a template to present the data to the world. Exactly what that template will include remains flexible. At the very least, it will include information about the students, the sites and the projects. Because there is some concern about "publishing" data that are preliminary, we hope to have a very flexible template that could either publish a few pictures/graphs about the research project along with, at the very least, an abstract about, and hopefully a few paragraphs more. If students are willing, we think it would be nice to have their pictures on the site but this will probably vary from site to site.

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> 4) The finished product would be searchable by a variety of methods. It will be important for each site to be able to pull up all files from their own institution easily. The site will also be searchable by student home state, home institution, and project area. In addition, we will be requesting ZIP code information so that the site is easily sorted by congressional district. Finally, we plan to request, though not require, demographic information about race and ethnicity. These data would not be searchable by the general public but would be accessible to NSF and nominally to us (if we want it). We figure that this would be something that NSF would want.

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> 5) We hope to be able to have a pilot project this summer that includes data from all the LG sites. Getting the information from the students or getting them to enter the information should be relatively easy - one can simply tell them that their last paycheck depends on their entering the information. Likewise, Graham and I felt that getting good participation from sites (outside our own - I presume that we are all on board about trying this project) should be relatively easy if we point out that the NSF really wants to see participation in this site. I was amazed that the SRI review of NSF REU received ~95% response from REU PIs for their survey. Surely REU PIs would want to help NSF on this too.

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> 6) We thought that it would be desirable for sites to have their own passwords so that the PI could preview information from students and give the final go-ahead before data appeared live.

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> 7) We anticipate that material would remain online for some nominal length of time. Graham and I thought that 5 years would be appropriate at this point. After that, the data would be archived and would still be available by request.

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> 8) We want to include a way for sites to include links to other relevant information but also want to ensure that the links remain active. Thus, we recommend that this supplemental info on other links be mirrored on the server that holds the REU online celebration. This will make us in control of the links. To ensure that info is as up-to-date as possible, we would annually prompt the individual PIs review their info and update as necessary.

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> 9) We are hoping to have the data collection part up and running before the end of July so that we can input our own data from this summer. Following this, we hope that the site will be ready for viewing at our next meeting in the fall so that we can demo it for Art Ellis live.

Cheers,
Prof. G.