

Subject: INSPIRE -- 3rd annual undergrad. research conference
From: Pollyanne Frantz <Pollyanne.Frantz@usm.edu>
Date: Mon, 13 Jun 2005 11:33:28 -0500
To: joeg@pitt.edu

Dear Professor Grabowski,

The third annual INSPIRE (Interstate Network of Science Programs Integrating Research and Education) conference is scheduled for Sept. 23-25, 2005 on the University of Southern Mississippi's Hattiesburg campus. This undergraduate research conference offers opportunities for the best and brightest students studying polymer science, materials science, and biomaterials science to present their research, share their learning experiences with other students and faculty members, and compete for cash awards for outstanding presentations and posters. Other scheduled events include a Career Fair featuring graduate programs and industrial sponsors; a professional development session; and, social activities designed to foster networking and collaboration.

Conference organizers especially want to invite Research Experiences for Undergraduate program participants to attend and present their research projects. These students are encouraged to participate and present even though their research might not be progressing as desired – such is the nature of research! Other benefits of attending the free INSPIRE conference include meeting leaders in scientific research and catching a glimpse of their future career choices.

The INSPIRE conference offers an exciting opportunity for undergraduate researchers to share their results with their peers in a unique environment. There also is an excellent chance that they can be winners in the awards competition. We hope you will encourage your students and others you know within your institution or elsewhere to apply and participate. This year's registrants thus far include students from Cornell University, Howard University, Virginia Tech, and Colorado State University.

Details:

- No registration fees are assessed at this conference. We also can provide support for meals, lodging, and travel expenses. What a great deal!
- August 26 poster /oral presentation abstracts deadline. Please encourage your students to send their abstracts before they depart from your campus
- September 9 registration deadline
- Cash awards for top three presenters (oral -- \$500, \$300, \$200 and poster -- \$400, \$200, \$100) in each category.

Point your browser to <http://www.pslc.ws/inspire/> to view additional conference information, including online registration and presentation/poster session submission instructions. However, please do not hesitate to contact us directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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