

Engagement Scholarship Consortium Poster Awards

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Overview of the Poster Awards

The National Outreach Scholarship Conference has long provided a venue for the presentation of posters representing innovative research, effective practices, and impactful programs. In 2011, conference planners developed a series of measures focused on enriching the poster session as a platform for showcasing community-based scholarship and university outreach. A number of the changes were implemented to enhance the experience of the poster sessions for presenters and attendees of the conference. These changes included:

- organizing two distinct poster sessions, each with a different line-up of posters;
- convening each poster session for a full 2 hours, the longest presentation format offered at the conference;
- clustering posters on similar topics near each other to create more natural spaces for thinking and discussion across common themes; and
- offering a reception with light food and drinks at each poster session to create a comfortable atmosphere for conversation.

Another change was implemented to acknowledge the important contribution excellent posters make to a conference program. The Engagement Scholarship Consortium inaugurated a special recognition program for scholarly work presented as a poster. A panel of judges reviewed over 100 posters presented during the meeting in East Lansing, Michigan, from an impressive group of national and international submissions. The posters were rated on the basis of their contribution to the conference theme and for their textual content and visual and graphic quality. On the final day of the event, the Engagement Scholarship Consortium announced the five most outstanding posters of its 2011 National Outreach Scholarship Conference. The 2011 Outstanding Poster Award recipients include:

- ***Exploring Competencies for Manufacturing Education Partnership (MEP) Centers***
 Diane D. Chapman and Kate G. Guerdat
 North Carolina State University
- ***Mapping a Strategic Plan for Health: Community-Based Participatory Research with Underserved, Low-income, Urban Neighborhoods***
 Gail Zandee
 Calvin College
- ***Measuring Academic Capacity: Research in Relationship***
 Fay Fletcher, Davina D. Rousell, Stephanie Worrell,
 Barb McLean, and Lola Baydala
 University of Alberta
- ***Student and Community Partner Expectations for Effective Community-Engaged Learning Partnerships***
 Holly Stack-Cutler and Sara Dorow
 University of Alberta
- ***Instructor-Led Engagement and Immersion Programs: Transformative Experiences for Study Abroad***
 Natalie Graham and Pat Crawford
 Michigan State University

Each group of poster presenters received a certificate of their accomplishment and was invited to publish an abstract of their work in this special issue of the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*. The pages that follow contain abstracts of the five award-winning posters, along with reproductions of each poster and links to download them from the Engagement Scholarship Consortium website.