VPR Fellowship Program Informational Meeting

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Introduction to the VPR Graduate Fellows Program: Overview

**Vision and Mission:** The VPR Fellows Program at CSU was created to recognize excellence in graduate research and to promote interdisciplinarity by engaging outstanding students from graduate programs across the institution.

The mission of the program is to provide a transformative leadership experience for CSU graduate students, helping to prepare the next generation of diverse, innovative creators and accelerating their paths to career success with an emphasis on the intersection of university-industry-government relationships critical for advancement in the Knowledge Society.
VPR Fellows Program

• Building on highly successful GRADSHOW experience
  • Partnership between Graduate School and OVPR
  • Create opportunities for graduate students across the university

• How did I get nominated?
  • Top performing students from the Graduate Student Showcase
  • Process was streamlined in 2016-2017 AY
What’s in it for me?

• Fellows will:
  • Receive up to $4000 in scholarship and travel support
    • Up to $2500 in scholarship
    • Up to $1500 in travel funds to attend professional meetings
  • Participate in professional development opportunities
    • Workshops, Mentorships, Leadership engagement
  • Experiences with the innovation “triple helix” – government, industry, foundations and community
What are fellows expected to do?

- Participate in some significant fraction of the activities – some examples include:
  - Ambassador role with visitors to campus
  - Attend professional development opportunities (e.g. workshops, trainings, etc.)
  - Networking events
  - Mentoring of future fellows
  - Judging of CURC/Grad Show/future 3-min competitions
- Be a “resident” student - no extended absences
- Attend welcome reception at beginning and end of program
Where are we now? Where are we going?

- Semi-Finalists have been selected (YOU!)
- Fellows will be chosen via a 3-minute challenge
  - February 12, 2018 – Long’s Peak Room, LSC 1-4 pm
  - Notification likely by the end of February, or sooner
- Judges have been selected
  - Six judges with a wide spectrum of disciplines/interests
  - Will judge all participants using the judging criteria that have been circulated
  - Decisions of the judges are final
What’s new this year?

- People’s Choice award
  - Selected by audience members
  - Winner receives opportunity to represent CSU at Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) 3MT competition March 20-21 in Las Vegas, NV
    - Graduate school will sponsor support for travel to meeting
    - Top two standings at WAGS invited to National meeting

- Introductory materials from students
  - How do you want to be introduced?
3 MINUTES 1 SLIDE OUTSTANDING IDEAS

VPR Fellowship Challenge Competition
So...what is the 3 minute thesis competition?

- **Program initiated at the University of Queensland**
  - Students consolidate thesis ideas, major findings and its significance to three minute presentation *suitable for a general audience*.

- **General rules - see handout**
  - Single, static PowerPoint slide
  - No gimmicks, music, dancing, electronic media, props, experiments, costumes, etc.;
  - Directed at the “general public”
...and how will I be judged?

Comprehension & Content
The presentation provided a clear understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance.

The presentation clearly described key results including conclusions and outcomes.

The presentation followed a clear and logical sequence.

The thesis topic, key results, research significance and outcomes were communicated in language that was appropriate for a non-specialist audience.

The speaker avoided jargon, explained terminology and provided adequate background information to illustrate the important points.

The presenter spent adequate time on each element of the presentation.
...and how will I be judged (2)?

**Engagement & Communication**

The presentation engaged the audience and made the audience want to know more.
The presenter was careful not to trivialize or generalize their findings.
The presenter conveyed enthusiasm for their scholarship.
The presenter captured and maintained the audience's attention.
The speaker had strong stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintained a steady pace, and had a confident stance.
The PowerPoint slide enhanced the presentation – it was clear, legible, and concise.
The presentation included creative elements in the PowerPoint and the vocal presentation.
How do I prepare for the competition?

Some quick pieces of advice on the verbal presentation

Use shorter words, shorter sentences, shorter paragraphs...
- Avoid jargon, acronyms, “academic” words etc.

Never make assumptions about your audience – what they do or don’t know and/or what they do or don’t like...

Think about using a circular structure

Bring your subject material to life – an anecdote or quote is useful; place it in the context of people or animals (or both!)

Have a “hook” – to build a bridge between your subject and everyday life

PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!!
How do I prepare for the competition (2)?

**Some quick pieces of advice on the slide**

Think of it as a backdrop for your presentation – how can it support, but not distract from your presentation?

Avoid distracting pieces (like who funded the research)

Use the Goldilocks approach to the amount of text you incorporate – just the right amount

Less is more – think clean, clear images with minimal text and minimal data!!

Have a “hook” – to build a bridge between your subject and every day life
A few what (not) to dos during the presentation...

Some quick pieces of advice on what to do and what not to do

DO NOT GO OVER TIME

Do not mutter or mumble

Do not use costumes, props, etc. – this will disqualify you

Do not memorize a script

Do make eye contact with the audience

Do try to limit any meta talk like “um” “ah”, “oops”, etc.

Do try to avoid fidgeting or distracting habits
Some Q&A and examples...
Examples
An exploration of an alternative funding mechanism for a protected area in the Peruvian Amazon

- **Percentages of tourist's willingness-to-pay**
  - $5 or more
  - $10 or more
  - $15 or more
  - $20 or more

- **Annual and projected amount of tourists**

- **Type of Program**
  - Environmental Education: 30% Additional Revenue: $62,504
  - Reforestation: 23% Additional Revenue: $47,920
  - Community Participation: 18% Additional Revenue: $37,503
By 2025, 50% of the world’s population will be living in a water-stressed region.

-World Health Organization-
Let Food be Your Medicine: Fuzhuan Tea and Heart Disease
Modeling the Neural and Behavioral Inter-relationships of Error Monitoring

(D) Correct

(E) Error

(F) Neural Processes on Incorrect Trials

Neural Processes on Correct Trials

Task-Specific Performance
A final word

Slides are due by noon Friday, February 9th
- Send to VPR_Fellows@mail.colostate.edu
- Late submissions will be disqualified

Along with your slide, please complete the digital form sent to you after this session which includes:
- Your name in the form you would like it be announced and phonetic pronunciation
- Department and Degree [e.g. Chemistry, Ph.D. in Chemistry]
- Year in degree
- I knew I wanted to study ____ when ____.
- With my degree I hope to___.
- Title for your presentation