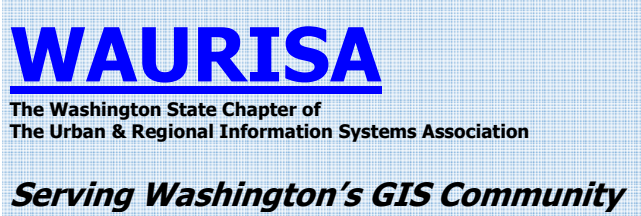


Calling All Students!!

First Annual Dick Thomas Award 2007 Washington GIS Conference Student Presentation Competition



WAURISA, the Washington State Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, announces the first annual Dick Thomas award. This award is established to honor Washington State GIS pioneer and mentor Richard 'Dick' Thomas, who passed away in 2006. The intent of this award is to honor Dick by continuing his work of encouraging students to excel in their studies and to transition successfully into careers in the field of GIS.

WAURISA's goal is to encourage students to present their original work related to GIS, geography, or geographic research in Washington State at the Annual Washington GIS Conference.

Prizes:

First Place:

- Dick Thomas Award Plaque
- \$1,000
- One year membership in WAURIA
- Free registration to 2008 Washington GIS Conference
- Publication of paper in *The Summit* (Washington GIS Newsletter)

Second Place:

- Dick Thomas Second Place Award Certificate
- \$250
- One year membership in WAURIA
- Free registration to 2008 Washington GIS Conference

Third Place:

- Dick Thomas Third Place Award Certificate
- \$100
- One year membership in WAURIA

Who can Enter:

The competition is limited to current students enrolled at least half time in a relevant curriculum at a secondary school, community college, technical school, or university program in Washington State.

What to Enter:

Entries are to be a paper/presentation based on original work by the student, conducted while enrolled in an appropriate academic program. Entries are to be presented during a special student session at the 2007 Washington GIS Conference in Lynnwood, Washington (April 23-25, 2007). For more information about the Conference, see: www.waurisa.org/conferences

Paper/presentations are to be limited to 15 minutes. A PC with PC Projector will be available, although you may use your own laptop. Internet access in the presentation room may be available, but is not guaranteed.

Entries are to be your original work conducted as a school project while enrolled in a GIS, geography, technology, or related academic program.

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Subjects for papers should relate to geography, GIS, or allied technology, as applied to a social, natural resource, business, government, or similar issue in Washington State. Types of topics of particular interest include, but are not limited to:

- Remote sensing
- Economic/Community development
- Public safety
- Emergency response
- Social justice
- Transportation
- Land use
- Utility systems
- Public health/social service delivery
- Environmental/natural resource issues

How to Enter:

Submit an abstract to: abstracts@waurisa.org. Include "Dick Thomas Award" in the email subject field. Abstracts should include:

- Author(s) name(s) with contact information (email, phone, address). If there is more than one author, designate the contact author. The contact author is the one individual with whom WAURISA will correspond for purpose of the contest, although multiple named authors can participate in the presentation.
- Educational institution enrolled at and current academic workload (specify number of hours)
- Academic contact (teacher or faculty advisor who can verify student status)
- Maximum 125 words describing your proposed presentation

Deadline to submit abstracts: Friday, March 23, 2007.

After March 23, the WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee will review submitted abstracts and notify those presentations chosen for the Conference by Friday, March 30. One (1) author for each paper selected to be presented will receive a one day registration to the 2007 Washington GIS Conference. For additional authors the student rate for the conference is \$75 (for two days).

Submitters do not need to be WAURISA members, but all students are encouraged to become WAURISA student members at the special rate of \$15 per year.

Judging Criteria:

Screening of abstracts and presentations during the conference will be judged on the following criteria:

- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of geographic concepts
- Demonstration of expertise and understanding of GIS, related technology, and its application
- Explanation of how the work presented relates to the topic and contributes to greater understanding or knowledge
- Demonstration of innovative approach and/or critical thinking
- Quality of written abstract
- Quality of public presentation

Prize Awards:

Screening of abstracts, selection of papers to be presented, and judging of papers during the Conference will be conducted by the WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee. All Committee decisions will be final. The Competition winners will be announced during the Conference, shortly after the last presentation.

In the case of an award going to a presentation with multiple authors, the award will be given to the contact author to be distributed equitably among the other authors. WAURISA will not involve itself in the distribution of awards among groups.

WAURISA February 22, 2007