

## ***Calling All Students!!***

### **Second Annual Dick Thomas Memorial Prize - Student Presentation Competition at the 2008 Washington GIS Conference**

**WAURISA**, the **Washington State Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association**, announces the second annual **Dick Thomas Memorial Award**. This award was established to honor Washington State GIS pioneer and mentor **Richard 'Dick' Thomas**.

The intent of this award is to honor Dick by continuing his work of encouraging students to excel in their studies and transition successfully into careers in the field of GIS.

**WAURISA's** goal is to inspire 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
- \$1000 cash
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Free registration to the **2009 Washington GIS Conference**
- Publication of paper in *The Summit* (Washington GIS Newsletter)

##### Second Place:

- Dick Thomas Second Place Award Certificate
- \$300 cash
- One year membership in **WAURISA**
- Free registration to **2009 Washington GIS Conference**

##### Third Place:

- Dick Thomas Third Place Award Certificate
- \$200 cash
- One year membership in **WAURISA**

#### **About the Competition:**

The competition has two parts: the first is the selection of four (4) abstracts by the **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee**. These papers will be presented during the Student Presentation Session at the **2008 Washington GIS Conference**. The second part is the judging of the selected student presentations **Conference**. Abstracts are to have a maximum of 250 words describing the proposed presentation. The presentations are limited to 15 – 20 minutes, with a possible additional 5 minutes for questions.



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#### **Who can enter:**

The competition is limited to current students enrolled at least 6 hours in a relevant curriculum at a secondary school, community college, technical school, or university program. Submitters do not need to be **WAURISA** members, but all students are encouraged to become **WAURISA** student members at the special student rate.

For more information about the **Conference**, please visit: [www.waurisa.org](http://www.waurisa.org).

## What to enter:

Entries must be original work by the student conducted as a school project or under the supervision of a professor while enrolled in a GIS, geography, technology, or related academic program. Subjects for papers should relate to geography, GIS, or allied technology, as applied to a social, natural resource, business, government, or a 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

Selected entries will be presented during a special student session at the **2008 Washington GIS Conference** in Seattle, Washington, on **May 7, 2008**.

## How to Enter:

Submit an abstract to: [abstracts@waurisa.org](mailto:abstracts@waurisa.org). Include "**Dick Thomas Award**" in the email subject field. Abstracts **MUST** include:

- Author(s) name(s) with contact information, including email, phone, and address. If there is more than one author, then the contact author must be designated. This individual is the one with whom the **Competition Committee** will correspond. Multiple named authors can participate in the presentation.
- Educational institution at which author (s) are enrolled
- Academic contact (teacher or faculty advisor who can verify student status)
- Describe the proposed presentation with a maximum of 250 words

## **Deadline to submit abstracts:** **Wednesday, March 26, 2008**

The **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** will review submitted abstracts after March 10<sup>th</sup>, and will notify the presenters chosen to present at the **Conference** by Wednesday, April 9. One (1) author for each paper selected will receive a one (1) day registration to the **2008 Washington GIS Conference**. ***New for 2008: If your paper is chosen for the presentation, you may attend a full-day Monday workshop for only \$10 in addition to your conference registration.***

## **Presentation of Selected Papers:** **Wednesday May 7, 2008**

Four (4) papers will be selected for presentation and final judging at the **Conference**. The **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** will provide final presentation details and, but authors should plan on a presentation of 15-20 minutes duration. A laptop with PC Projector will be available. Internet access in the presentation room may be available, but is not guaranteed.

## **Judging Criteria:**

Abstracts and presentations 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 an 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.**