



## Third Annual Richard "Dick" Thomas Memorial Student Presentation Competition & Award at the 2009 Washington GIS Conference

**WAURISA**, the **Washington State Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association**, announces the third annual **Dick Thomas Memorial Student Presentation Competition & 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** objective 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 **2010 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 the **2010 Washington GIS Conference**

#### Third Place

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



1947 – 2006

### 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 **2009 Washington GIS Conference**. The second part is the judging of the selected student presentations at the **Conference**.

### 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 technologies, as applied to a social, natural resource, business, government, or a similar subject in Washington State. Previous entries included such topics as:

- Recreation
- Public health
- Environmental/natural resource issues
- Public safety
- Transportation
- Remote sensing
- Stormwater

Other topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Economic/Community development
- Emergency response

- Social justice
- Land use
- Utility systems
- Public health/Social service delivery
- Business applications
- Surprise us!

Selected entries will be presented during a special student session at the **2009 Washington GIS Conference** in Bellevue, Washington, on **May 6, 2009**.

### Submittal Guidelines

All submitted entries must include:

- An abstract of the project that describes the proposed presentation with a maximum of 250 words;
- And, a letter from the students' teacher or faculty advisor verifying student status and hours of enrollment
- On the day of the presentation, a PDF of the presentation slides on a CD must be given to Amanda Taub, Dick Thomas Award Coordinator, to be included on WAURISA's web site.

The submitted abstract shall have the following format:

- It should be left justified or aligned to the left margin.
- The title is first; in **bold** with proper title capitalization.
- Following on a new line with an empty line between the title and author is the author(s) name(s) followed by school name, entrant's mailing address, phone number, and email(s). This line must also be in **bold** face.
  - If there is more than one author, then the contact author must be clearly identified. The contact author is the individual with whom the **Competition Committee** will correspond and to whom any prizes will be awarded. Multiple named authors are welcome participate in the presentation.
- Following on a new line with an empty line between the author and abstract, is the abstract in 250 words or less.

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

### Deadline to submit abstracts:

**Wednesday, March 25, 2009**

The **WAURISA Student Presentation Competition Committee** will review submitted abstracts after **March 25<sup>th</sup>**, and will notify the presenters chosen to present at the **Conference** by **Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**. One (1) author for each paper selected will receive a

one (1) day registration to the **2008 Washington GIS Conference**. We are continuing at this year's 2009 conference the popular offer of allowing all accepted presenters the option to register for the full-day Monday workshop for only \$10 in addition to their free one-day conference registration.

### Presentation of Selected Papers:

**Wednesday May 6, 2009**

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, but authors should plan on a presentation of 15-20 minutes duration. A laptop with a 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 of the topic and GIS
- 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 of student presenters.