The Center for Research Quality is pleased to invite proposals for the annual Walden University Research Symposium to be held the afternoon of Friday, January 18, 2019, during the university faculty meeting at the Tampa Convention Center in Tampa, Florida.

Faculty and staff members, Walden University alumni, and graduating students from all colleges and academic units are invited to participate.

Contributions from any discipline or conceptual perspective represented at Walden University are welcomed, but efforts that link research to Walden's mission of promoting positive social change are particularly valued. Collaborative efforts are also greatly appreciated.

About the Poster Presentations

Presenting a poster at the Research Symposium can be an excellent opportunity for professional development, especially for emerging scholars seeking to improve their research and presentation skills. All presenters will obtain valuable feedback on their research. They will also have the opportunity to network with other colleagues who share their research interests.

Posters are summaries of in-progress or completed research presented concisely on a 3 x 4 ft. poster board, the Walden University Poster Template. Posters function as visual aids for face-to-face conversations with other individuals who attend the Symposium. All posters will be displayed simultaneously in a large hall. Presenters will be available to discuss their research with attendees as they pass through the venue. See the 2018 Digest here.

Presenters do not need to be prepared to provide complete manuscripts or support materials because these documents can be e-mailed to interested parties at another time. Guidance for developing a reader-friendly poster is included in this Call for Proposals, and information on printing options will be provided to accepted presenters.

How to Apply

To have a poster considered for acceptance in the 2019 Research Symposium, applicants should follow the instructions for submission below. Applicants are invited to submit more than one proposal for different research topics, but a separate application for each presentation is required.
Selection

All applications will be reviewed by a committee of Walden University scholars from across the disciplines. The process for acceptance is selective, so applicants are encouraged to prepare the highest quality submissions possible. Applicants not selected will receive feedback on how their materials could be improved for future submission, when applicable. For faculty, staff, and alumni applicants, notification of acceptance will be made in late October. Notifications of acceptance for graduating students will be made in December. Evaluation Criteria can be found below.

Faculty Collaborations with Current Students or New Graduates

A faculty member whose research involves substantive contributions from current students or graduates may opt to include them as part of the poster presentation (although no funding is available from the university to support their expenses). All posters reporting research collaborations between faculty members and current students or graduates must be submitted by the October 19 deadline.

Alumni Presenters

Walden University alumni who have continued their research beyond what was done in their doctoral program are also invited to present a poster. Because the university cannot support their travel, alumni who live within driving distance of the Tampa venue would be the best fit for this opportunity. The application deadline for alumni is October 29th.

Graduate Presenters

Applications from doctoral graduates who are planning to attend graduation the following day are welcomed; their application deadline is December 6. The expectation for graduate presenters is that a poster presentation at the Symposium is a developmental experience that showcases the researcher's completed work. Therefore, presentations of doctoral capstone research will only be reviewed as single-author applications. Graduates are encouraged however, to acknowledge their doctoral supervisory committee members on the poster.

For more detail on university guidelines for authorship, please consult Authorship Guidelines for Publications and Presentations.

Graduating student presenters should also consider participating in the New Scholars Workshop on Thursday, January, 17. More information can be found on that site.

More Information

The poster template, and links to programs and posters can be found on the Research Symposium website. Questions can be directed to researchsymposium@mail.waldenu.edu.
Posters

Create your poster using the Poster Template (as a PowerPoint™ file) by filling in the areas listed on the template (note: the template was updated in 2018, so make sure you use the current version). Also refer to the evaluation criteria noted below as you complete these items. Poster Guidelines & Tips are provided in the next section.

Selection Criteria

Selection of posters will be based on evaluation of the following areas:

★ A clear research emphasis (even if the project is not completed).
★ Importance of the contribution to the specific field of study and/or practice.
★ Correspondence/alignment of design components.
★ Appropriateness of data collection and data analysis approaches.
★ The potential social change impact.
★ Succinctness, clarity of writing, and proper APA format.

Application

The 2019 Research Symposium Application is used for poster proposals from faculty and staff members, graduating students, and Walden alumni. Posters must be in Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt or .pptx) format (highly preferred) or saved as a Portable Document Format (PDF) document. The author’s or authors’ name(s) should appear in the file name. When submitting a poster, be sure to upload it at the end of the application process.

Any problems with the application and submission process should be directed to researchsymposium@mail.waldenu.edu.

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The following guidelines and tips should help assure a successful review and presentation of your poster. If you have any questions or concerns as you prepare your poster, please send a message to: researchsymposium@mail.waldenu.edu

A Poster Is a Visual Tool — Not a Text Document
• Keep in mind that people will be standing at your poster, trying to extract the key aspects of your study. If the information is not presented well visually, attendees are more likely to just "pass on by" instead of spending time figuring it out.
• Try to leave plenty of white space (but not too much).

Think “Outline” Instead of “Narrative”
• Avoid large blocks of text, with no more than a couple paragraphs in a section.
• When feasible, use outlining and bullet points, especially for lists like research questions, procedural steps, findings, etc.
• Don’t worry about using complete sentences, but do aim to use parallel construction in any lists.
• Special Tips for Graduates
  ◦ You have already defended your research, so there is no need to do it again. Focus more on what you did, and less on the reasons why you did it. For example, you don’t need to explain why you picked quantitative over qualitative or cite Creswell’s explanation of the differences.
  ◦ Resist cutting and pasting from your capstone. Write the poster narrative from scratch, building out the notions you had in the PowerPoint that you may have used for the oral conference.
  ◦ While all the hard work of your supervisory committee is appreciated, graduates’ posters are expected be single-author presentations. To acknowledge your committee members, use the Committee or Funding Source line toward the bottom of the poster template.

Market Your Research Story
• You cannot include everything that you did or plan to do, so you need to determine the most salient “take-aways” from your study. Often, these items appear in the Discussion section of an article or the final chapter of a doctoral capstone.
Remember Your Audience

- Your audience for this poster will be other researchers at Walden University, not the people with whom and for whom you may work. Keep the tone scholarly.

Use Graphics Strategically, but Sparingly

- Tables, graphs, diagrams, charts, and figures are often much better than a text description.
- Use color judiciously, but don’t change the basic scheme of the poster template.
- Pictures should augment the poster narrative and not be simply decorative.

Follow the Poster Template

- A poster template is used to help the audience understand what to expect at each poster and to help presenters to hit all the key points of their research. Please try to respond to every item on the template, and do not rearrange the items too much.
- A poster is not a written document, but do try to follow APA guidelines as much as possible. Include citations, but do not include references on the poster. Instead, prepare a bibliography as a handout, if you think one is needed.
- Formatting Requirements
  - Title = 90 point Arial, centered, plain text, brown
  - Presenter Byline = 60 point Arial, centered, boldface, brown
  - Section Heading = 46 point Arial, centered, boldface, teal
  - Section Text = 32 point Arial, left aligned, black. It is recommended to use some boldface and/or italics to highlight key terms in the text.
  - Committee-Funding Line = 36 point Arial, italic, centered. Delete this line if not used.
  - Tables and Figures = Use Arial and avoid anything smaller than 18 point.

Double Check Everything Before Printing

- You will have multiple drafts of the poster, and PowerPoint files don’t travel well between computers and operating systems. Most printers will ask for a file in PDF (portable document format), so make sure the layout and formatting look right on YOUR computer before generating it, and then recheck it.
- Also make sure you have deleted any extra notes and comments off the poster.

Handouts

- Handouts are perfectly acceptable, but less is often more. A better strategy is to have a sheet handy to collect names and e-mail addresses in order to send electronic files, later.
- Business cards or other contact information are beneficial and often requested.

Making the Presentation

- Prior to the session, rehearse a brief summary of your project. Some participants will ask you to tell them about it before they look at your poster.
- Dress for Success: For those of you who have not attended a Walden symposium before, the preferred attire is "business professional." You will be joined by faculty and staff members, graduates/students, and members of the Walden University leadership, including the occasional member of the Board of Directors.
- Be on time and available for the entire poster session.
- Smile and be proud of your accomplishment!