

NASPA 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CASE STUDY COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Team Composition. Each team will be composed of two members. Participants may enter as pairs or as individuals. Individuals will be paired with their partners at the Orientation Meeting, 1-2pm on Sunday, March 8th. The location of the meeting and competition will be posted in the conference program when locations are finalized.

Team Categories. Teams will be divided into two divisions: Graduate Student teams and New Professional teams for the competition. Mixed teams will be entered as New Professionals.

Member Eligibility. All team members must meet the following requirements:

Graduate Students. The team member must be an enrolled student in a master's or doctoral professional preparation program and not employed full time in a student affairs position.

Entry Level Professionals. The member must be in their first professional student affairs/ student services professional position for **no more** than three years at the time of the 2009 Annual NASPA Conference.

Maximum Teams Allowed. In an effort to encourage participation in the case study process, the case study planning team is not initially placing limits on the number of teams from individual institutions or number of individuals who can sign up to be paired. However, because presentation time, facilities and judging resources are limited, the planning team reserves the right to reduce the number of teams and individuals to fit what can be made available. That process will be determined based on the number of applications received by the posted deadline. If it is not possible to accommodate all on-time teams, an ordered alternate list will be developed in case of cancellations. The Case Study Committee's goal is to notify participants of their participation status by mid-February.

Application Deadline. Applications received by 5pm EST, Friday, February 6, 2009 will be considered "on-time." Applications received after that date will be considered on a space available basis by date/time of receipt of application (see "Maximum Teams Allowed" above).

Presentation Schedule Requirements. Teams must be able to meet the following logistical expectations to compete:

Orientation Meeting. At least one member of each team (and **all** individual entries because of the pairing process) is required to attend the Orientation Meeting from 1-2pm on Sunday, March 8th. The location of the meeting will be posted in the conference program when locations are finalized. All participants are encouraged to attend the Orientation Meeting. Teams and

individuals not represented at the Orientation meeting will not be allowed to participate.

Case Presentations. The competition will be held between 8:00am and 5:00pm on Monday, March 9th. Teams must be able present their case during that time period as scheduled at the Orientation Meeting, but are only required to be present for their scheduled time.

Presentation Scheduling. Times for team presentations will be determined at the Orientation Meeting. Every effort will be made to accommodate team scheduling needs, but cannot be guaranteed.

Case Studies. The case studies will be distributed at the end of the Orientation Meeting. There may be separate cases for each division (Graduate Student and New Professional), but all teams in each category will receive the same case study to prepare.

Case Presentations. Teams must be prepared for the following presentation expectations:

Presentation Time. Depending on the total number of entries, either a 20 minute or 30 minute cycle will be used; this will include the presentation, a question and answer period by the panel of judges, and time for the panel to evaluate the presentation before bringing in the next team.

Presentation Resources. In order to keep the competition even, only the following resources will be available for use during the case presentations:

- Overhead projector (presenters must provide their own transparencies)
- Flipchart and markers
- Note: Computers may not be used for presentations

Observers. Only team members will be allowed in the presentation area before, during, and after the case presentation.

Judging. As foundation, judges will be utilizing the case solving strategy suggested by Stage and Dannells (2000) in *Linking Theory to Practice: Case Studies for Working with College Students* (citation below). Participants are encouraged to review this publication as preparation for the competition.

Case Preparation. Teams are expected to work on the case preparation as a team only. Other students, faculty, professional colleagues, etc. are not allowed to see the case study or assist in the preparation of the case.

Awards. All teams will receive certificates of participation. The top three teams in each category will be recognized. The top team in each category will receive individual plaques recognizing their accomplishment. In the graduate category, the winner's school(s) will also receive recognition to acknowledge the accomplishment by their students.

Case Feedback/ Announcement of Results/ Recognition. The Case Study Committee and judges will present global feedback to the participants at 4:00pm the day of the competition, followed by the announcement of the results of the case study competition. Winners may be invited to be recognized at other conference events.

Reference

Stage, F.K., & Dannels, M. (2000). *Linking theory to practice: Case studies for working with college students* (2nd Edition). Philadelphia: Taylor & Francis.