**Application for the 2023 Paul E. Torgersen**

**Graduate Student Research Excellence Award**

Each year the College of Engineering showcases top research by graduating Masters and Doctoral students and culminates in awarding the Paul E. Torgersen Graduate Student Research Excellence Awards. This year the showcase will be held on April 19, 2023, in Goodwin Atrium at 3:00 pm and will include categories for poster presentations and for poster presentations with a video-recorded oral presentation. In recognition of outstanding research, these prestigious awards also include monetary prizes as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **1st** | **2nd** | **3rd** | **4th** |
| Oral and Poster Presentations, Doctoral | $ 500 | $ 450 | $ 400 | $ 350 |
| Oral and Poster Presentations, Masters | $ 500 | $ 450 | $ 400 | $ 350 |
| Poster Presentations, Doctoral | $ 300 | $ 250 | $ 200 | $ 150 |
| Poster Presentations, Masters | $ 300 | $ 250 | $ 200 | $ 150 |

Award winners will be announced at the showcase event.

**Eligibility:**

To qualify, applicants must be recently completed or near degree completion (MS or PhD). Recently completed means August 2022 to the present. Near completion means on-track to finish by August 2023. Applications are open to students on all campuses.

**Process:**

Eligible students submit an abstract (detailed instructions below) which will be evaluated by a team of judges using a rubric. Up to 20 finalists will be invited to present a poster. For students entering the poster/oral presentation category, both the abstract and the video will be evaluated, and 8 finalists will be chosen to present a poster. Applicants in this category will automatically be considered for the poster only category if not chosen for the poster/oral presentation category. Rubrics for each award category and abstracts are attached to the email.

**Important Dates:**

* Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on Monday, March 20, 2023.
* Finalists will be notified by email on April 5, 2023.
* The event will be held on April 19, 2023, at 3:00 pm in Goodwin Hall with awards at the conclusion of the showcase.

**Poster Presentation:**

To be considered for the Poster Presentation Awards, please submit an abstract detailing the research. The abstract should not require special knowledge of the area of study and the research should be described in terms that can be understood by engineers of varying disciplines. Typical technical paper guidelines should be followed (introduction, methods, results, conclusion, etc.) in accordance with the rubric. If your application is chosen as a finalist, you will receive further details regarding the poster (size, etc.).

**Oral and Poster Presentations:**

To be considered for the Oral and Poster Presentation Awards, please submit the same type of abstract as described for the Poster Presentation along with a recorded presentation of your research not to exceed 10 minutes. Use of visual aids is strongly recommended. If you are not chosen as a finalist for the Oral and Poster Presentation Awards you will be automatically entered for the Poster Presentation Awards.

Please note: You will still be required to have a poster of the research at the showcase.

**Submission Guidelines:**

* Abstract should not exceed two pages in length including figures and tables (an additional page may be used for references).
* One-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font.
* Complete the coversheet attached to the email. Your advisor must sign it as that signature indicates approval of the material and contribution of the student.
* Combine coversheet and abstract as a single PDF file.
* The abstract itself should not contain student names. This is important because the judging is de-identified.
* Abstract file should be named with your name, degree level, and which award.

Ex: Name\_PhD\_oral and poster

Ex: Name\_Masters\_poster

* Video files should be similarly named:

Ex: Name\_PhD\_video

Upload your abstract and coversheet as one PDF file [here](https://forms.gle/YZdGDQLhARNPqHor7).

Upload oral presentation recording [here](https://forms.gle/TSPNQx25GaajcYv87):

Please direct all questions to Amanda Parsons [kparsons@vt.edu](mailto:kparsons@vt.edu).