



2026 Center for Research Excellence Symposium Manual

Symposium

The primary goal for this symposium is to showcase the research done at Alcorn State University and surrounding institutions and to provide an additional opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to develop professionally and academically in addition to preparing our students for future conferences.

Registration (www.alcorn.edu/CRES2026)

- Each participant must register in order to participate in the symposium (even if they are not presenting).
- There will be early, regular, and late registration.
- There will be no registration taken after January 20, 2026
- For Alcorn State University, **ALL** student research workers that are paid from Evans Allen are expected to present in either the oral or poster presentations.
- All students and faculty participating in ARD and MAS in 2026 are **REQUIRED** to present at CRES.
- Registrants must declare if the presentation is their defense

Dates and Deadlines

Dates	Deadlines
October 20-November 3, 2025	Early Registration \$10
November 3, 2025	Oral Abstracts Due
November 3, 2025	Poster Abstracts Due
November 3, 2025- December 9, 2025	Regular Registration \$20
December 10, 2025 January 20, 2026	Late Registration \$30
February 4, 2026	Last Day for Printing Posters
February 4, 2026	Last Day to Send Oral Presentations
February 11, 2026	Poster Set-Up
February 12, 2026	Symposium Begins

- For Alcorn State University, **ALL** student research workers that are paid from Evans Allen, McIntire Stennis, or receive a graduate stipend are expected to present at MAS and ARD (every other year); therefore, our abstract due dates coincide with MAS abstracts due dates this year to ensure student participation in both conferences.

Abstract Submission (www.alcorn.edu/CRES2026)

- Ensure that each presenter has clearly indicated if they are undergraduate, graduate, or faculty
- Ensure that each presenter has clearly indicated if they are submitting oral or poster presentations
- Ensure that each presenter has clearly indicated if they are presenting at ARD

Call for Abstracts

Title:

- Capitalize all proper words
- Italicize genus and species
- No footnotes
- Bold all words in title

Body:

- Limit 250 words
- Give scientific name at first mention of the subject organism
- Do not cite references, figures, tables, probability levels, nor detailed results
- Refer to results only in the general sense
- Place three (3) to five (5) key words on a line below the abstracts

Authors and Affiliations:

- First Initials and Last name (M.C. Mason), no first names
- * denotes presenter
- Avoid footnoting
- List authors followed by department, University name, city, state, and zipcode

Title, Authors, and Affiliations Example

Screening *Capsicum chinense* Fruits of the World. G. F. Antonious*, Department of Agriculture, Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY 40101; J. C. Snyder, Department of Horticulture, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546; and R. L. Jarret, USDA/ARS Plant Genetics Laboratory, Griffin, GA 30223.

Amending/withdrawing a submission:

- If you want to amend/withdraw an abstract please contact the conference administrator Dr. Melissa Mason at mcmason@alcorn.edu. If you are unable to attend after submission and registration, please let us know so that we can plan accordingly.

Guidelines for Posters

1. **Timeline:**
 - a. Students will have 5 minutes for their presentation and 2 minutes for questioning by the judges.
2. **The poster must be submitted in one of the following contemporary topic areas:**
 - a. Plant Health and Production and Plant Products
 - b. Animal Health and Production and Animal Products
 - c. Food Safety, Nutrition and Health
 - d. Renewable Energy, Natural Resources, and Environment
 - e. Family, Youth, Community and Economic Development
3. **The poster must have the following sections:**
 - a. Title with authors and Institution(s)
 - b. Abstract
 - c. Introduction
 - d. Materials and Methods
 - e. Results (to include charts, tables, figures and photos)
 - f. Discussion
 - g. Conclusion(s)
 - h. Literature Cited
4. **The poster must conform to the following specifications:**
 - a. Must fit entirely within a 4 ft. x 4 ft. area
 - b. Lettering must be readable from 3-4 ft.
5. **Eligibility**
 - a. The research cannot previously have been published or be "in press"

Guidelines for Oral Presentations

1. Students must be present 30 minutes prior to their scheduled presentation time. They are to report to the moderator when they arrive. This is to ensure that if other students are no-shows or the symposium is moving ahead of schedule, that the student will not miss their turn.

2. The symposium will not be held responsible for any students missing their presentations if they are not present 30 minutes prior to their time.
3. Students will have 10 minutes to complete their presentation and two minutes for questions.

Awards

Certificates will be given to all presenting students and professionals in both oral presentations and posters. First and second place winners will be determined by the average score of three judges. Winners will receive the following:

- Undergraduate Oral
 - First Place: \$250
 - Second Place: \$150
- Undergraduate Poster
 - First Place: \$250
 - Second Place: \$150
- Graduate Oral
 - First Place: \$250
 - Second Place: \$150
- Graduate Poster
 - First Place: \$250
 - Second Place: \$150
- Professional Oral
 - First Place: plaque
 - Second Place: plaque
- Professional Poster
 - First Place: plaque
 - Second Place: plaque

Judging

- There will be three judges per oral and poster presentation.
- Students who are presenting posters are responsible for staying with their posters until all three judges have scored them. If a student has not been scored by three judges they need to contact the help desk and inform them of the situation.
- Judges are working on the honor system and are expected to recuse themselves if they find themselves scoring their own student.
- Both poster and oral judging forms are available online so presenters can see what they are being judged for.