



21st National Conference on Rural Public & Intercity Bus Transportation

October 26 - 29, 2014
Monterey, California

College and University Rural Public and Intercity Bus Essay Competition

Setting Our Course for the Future

Guidelines for the Student Essay Competition

The 21st National Conference on Rural and Intercity Bus is scheduled to take place in October 26-29, 2014 Monterey, California. To encourage student participation in the conference, undergraduate students are offered the opportunity to participate in an essay competition. Two essay winners will receive cash prizes as well as travel funds to attend the conference.

Essay Winners: 1st place \$500 and 2nd place is \$250

Essay Competition Rules:

1. Students must attend a community college, four-year college, or university.
2. Students must be able to provide proof of their college or university registration.
3. Participation to the competition is voluntary.
4. Essays or papers must be the work of only one student.
5. A student may only submit one entry.
6. Students may come from any discipline: engineering, economics, business, literature, sociology, medicine, science, etc.
7. The essay must indicate:
 - Student's name, email address
 - School name
 - Level of student (freshman, sophomore, etc.)
 - Student's main course of study or major
8. Essays must be at least two and no more than three pages long, single spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font. They can be factual or imaginative. They must be submitted in Microsoft WORD format.
9. The word document files must be saved using the following title format:

2014 RIBTC Essay Competition – Student name – School name.

10. The entry must be sent to either Del Peterson (del.peterson@ndsu.edu) or Pat Weaver (weaver@ku.edu).
11. The deadline is final. Any file sent after 5 p.m. CT, March 7, 2014 will not be considered.
12. Students will be notified by March 31, 2013 regarding participating in the conference.
13. Students participating in this competition authorize the conference to use all or part of their work during the Conference in the form of quotes or displays. However, the work will be cited to the author and the college/university they attend.

14. Objections will not be accepted in relation to the grading of the entries or selection. Grading will only be communicated to the top two entries.
15. Winners of the competition agree to attend the conference and to possibly participate in sessions by presenting their work. In addition to the cash prize, registration and travel funds to the conference will be provided.

Setting the Stage:

Setting Our Course for the Future

Futurists have envisioned four alternative perspectives for our future: a vision of continued growth, one of disciplined or constrained growth, a future of decline and collapse, or one of transformation. Understanding these four alternative perspectives is important as many believe that the way we envision our future actually shapes the future. Setting our course for the future of public transportation is influenced by the future view that guides our assumptions.

Of these four competing visions for the future, which view do you hold for rural America and why? In that context, what will public transportation look like in 2040 in rural America? What are your assumptions about the impact that demographic, social, economic, technology, and environmental trends will have on the future mobility needs of rural citizens?

Judging Criteria:

All essays will be judged on originality, innovation, practicality, timeliness, and readability.