

15th Annual Counselors' Institute
***“Qualified, Understanding and Inspiring Nurturers Caring for
and Empowering others to succeed.”***
Call for Student Posters

The 15th Annual Counselors' Institute, to be held January 22-24, 2009 on South Padre Island, TX, is currently accepting student poster proposals. The Deadline is December 5th. We invite students in the field of guidance and counseling to submit posters that develop the conference theme and enrich participants' knowledge. This year's institute's theme is, *“Qualified, Understanding and Inspiring Nurturers Caring for and Empowering others to succeed.”* We hope this theme provides a platform for sharing intellectually engaging ideas and innovative practices as we move forward in the strengthening of our important work.

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT POSTERS

Posters provide a format for information to be presented visually using posters, charts, graphs, pictures, and other visuals to allow presenters and attendees to have one-on-one contact and discussion. During the institute, the selected student posters will be on display in the exhibit hall. At designated times, students will be available to discuss their research with institute attendees.

A student may propose an *individual poster*, or a student and a group of colleagues may propose a *group poster*. We would like for all posters to be organized around the institute theme and/or the four strands established by the conference planners. This year's thematic strands are grouped in the following manner:

- 1) Elementary school counseling
- 2) Secondary school counseling
- 3) Mental health counseling
- 4) Areas of general interest (examples -- social work issues, college/career)

SPECIFICS FOR POSTERS

Posters will be displayed in a designated area of the Exhibit Hall during a special poster session at the Counselors' Institute. Well-crafted posters will tell the story well by themselves, but authors of posters are expected to be available to describe and discuss the work in the poster during the session to interested attendees.

Poster dimensions, 25" by 30" with poster contents must be mounted on rectangular poster board that will be provided by the Counselors' Institute. You may choose a layout consisting of individual sheets of paper, or a monolithic large piece of poster paper which can be printed at document companies. Presenters will be provided with tables and bulletin boards to display their visuals.

PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS & CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Each proposal for posters will be reviewed by the Counselors' Institute Committee. The most important criterion the committee will look for will be the overall quality of the proposed poster session. Strong consideration will be given to:

- Content and relation to conference theme or current issues in counseling
- Relation to the conference strand identified in the proposal
- Relevance to the targeted audience described in the proposal
- Design of the presentation or poster content

Individuals submitting poster proposal must keep the Counselors' Institute team informed of e-mail or address changes. Notification of proposal status and subsequent instructions will be sent only to the individual who submitted the proposal. This individual is responsible for communicating information to other members of their group. Please report any address changes to frank.coulson@utb.edu

POSTER SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A student poster proposal is limited to three (3) pages that conform to the format specifications that follow. A proposal should contain the following information, in this order:

1. Poster Topic & Title
2. Poster type (individual or group) & author(s) information:
 - a. Name & contact information (address, phone number & email)
 - b. Institutional affiliation
3. Thematic strand of poster
4. Intended audience
5. Poster Abstract (max 100 words)
 - a. The poster abstract should contain a description of the problem, related work, approach, and results. Include a paragraph (max 100 words) for publication in the conference program that serves as a succinct description of the project.
6. Poster Description
7. Logistics

Poster proposals must be submitted no more than 3 pages long. The first two pages should contain an abstract describing the research content of the poster, along with title, authors, institutional affiliations and contact information. The third page should contain a thumbnail draft of the poster's contents.

Proposal forms are available on the Counselors' Institute website, <http://blue.utb.edu/sa/counselorsinstitute>. The poster proposal form is in a downloadable *Microsoft Word or pdf* format that writers can save to their computers. Please complete it and send it as an e-mail attachment to: frank.coulson@utb.edu

We encourage online submission of proposals, however, if you are unable to access or send these forms online, please write to frank.coulson@utb.edu or call (956)882-8292 to arrange an alternative solution.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Proposals must be received by December 5, 2008. The Counselors' Institute Team will select all posters and send notification of proposal acceptance by January 7, 2008.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For assistance in accessing or using the proposal forms or any other inquiry, feel free to contact Frank Coulson M. Ed. at (956)882-8292.

We look forward to seeing you and your poster at South Padre Island in 2009!

Poster Proposal
15th Annual Counselors' Institute
January 22-24, 2009

Poster Proposal Form

1. Poster Title & Topic:

2. Proposal Option (choose one)

- Individual Poster**
- Group Poster**

Presenter(s)

Identify all participants in the poster. Spell names correctly and provide accurate contact information. The first and last name and institutional affiliation provided for each participant will be printed in the conference program book.

3. Choose a Thematic Strand

The Counselors' Institute has developed four thematic strands to elaborate the overall institute's theme of "*Qualified, Understanding and Inspiring Nurturers Caring for and Empowering others to succeed.*" Choose one strand below that best fit your poster session.

- Elementary school counseling**
- Secondary school counseling**
- Mental health counseling**

Areas of general interest (examples -- social work issues, college/career)

4. Define Your Intended Audience

Identify your target audience by describing the type of professional who will be best served by your poster. Please consider a specific segment of the counseling profession including child therapy, multicultural counseling, group counseling, or career counseling, in describing your intended audience.

5. **Poster Abstract**

Provide a brief description of what will be covered in the proposed poster session. Institute attendees should be able to easily identify the content of the presentation and its relevance to their interests by reading the abstract.

Consider the following as you develop the abstract:

- Be concise: use a 100-word maximum
- Identify clearly the focus of the presentation
- Use action verbs whenever possible
- Avoid abbreviations and unfamiliar terminology

6. **Provide a Poster Description**

The description provides the plan for the presentation. It conveys to the Counselors' Institute Committee information about the quality and organization of the proposed poster, whether it will address its anticipated audience, and whether it will support a conference thread.

Describe these elements:

- Session content
- Main points of the session
- Significance of the topic for the field and the target audience
- Expected learning outcomes for participants
- Presenters' area of research, educational level and institutional affiliation

7. **Logistics**

Our Institute will run from January 22-24, 2008. However, poster session dates will be scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of January. Please select the dates and times you will **not** be able to present. The committee will try to accommodate your request. However, you must take note that sessions will be spread out through the first two days of the conference.