Conference Call for Proposals

Advancing Publicly-Engaged Research, Teaching, and Learning to Address Society’s Grand Challenges

Thursday, March 1, 2018
Coffman Memorial Union

The University of Minnesota invites you to a systemwide conference to examine the role of public engagement in addressing society’s most challenging issues.

“Public engagement” refers to the involvement of University faculty, students, and staff in research, teaching, learning, and/or service activities that are focused on addressing societal issues through collaborative partnerships with external entities including, but not limited to local, regional, state, national, or international communities, non-profit community-based organizations, governmental agencies, business/industry, and educational institutions.

All university faculty, staff, students, community partners, and institutional leaders are invited to submit presentation proposals and attend the conference.

Submitting a Presentation Proposal

To prepare and submit your presentation proposal, complete the following steps via the conference’s online Proposal Submission Form.

The form asks for the following information. It is recommended that you first gather all of the information and enter it in a WORD document and then transfer your responses to the online form.
1. Presenter Information

- Name, title, unit affiliation (e.g., department, office, etc.), and email address of all presenters
- Identification of lead presenter

2. Abstract

Complete a 50-word abstract that provides a description of the content of your session.

3. Proposal Narrative

Complete a short proposal narrative (no more than 300 words) that addresses the following four questions:

1. What information will your presentation cover? Provide a list of the issues your session will focus on.
2. How will this connect with the conference theme? Provide information as to how you will directly explore issues pertaining to the conference theme. Your presentation should be anchored in important issues pertaining to the role of publicly-engaged research, teaching, learning, and/or outreach in meeting society’s grand challenges.
3. What knowledge, skills, or understandings will participants gain from your presentation?
4. If applicable, indicate if your presentation targets or is most relevant to a particular audience (e.g., faculty, community partners, etc.).

4. Selection of Presentation Format

Conference sessions will be delivered through a variety of formats and modalities. Presenters are encouraged to select the format that best suits the focus and intention of their presentation. A variety of presentation formats is available. Please note that each format has a specified allocation of time in which the presentation must be conducted.

All sessions are 60 minutes long, of which at least 20 minutes are devoted to an open discussion with session attendees.

Identify the presentation format(s) you prefer for your presentation. You are welcome to choose more than one format. However, choose only those presentation formats that accommodate your presentation.

- **Case Study** is a 20-minute presentation from a singular program, unit, or partnership that shares good practices and experiences on a broadly applicable and replicable topic. For your session, the conference program planners will pair your 20-minute case study with another case study, based on the proposed topic or the theme on which the session is focused.
- **Digital Poster** presentation is a showcase of work delivered through a digital poster display. Each poster presenter will be given 10 minutes total to introduce
yourself and discuss your digital poster. The conference planners will match your 10-minute presentation with up to four other poster presentations that will be highlighted during the 60-minute session. 20 minutes of the session will be devoted to discussion with session attendees.

- **Panel Discussion** is a 60-minute session addressing multiple perspectives and/or diversity of approaches focused on important public engagement topics. Consideration should be given to including panelists who bring diverse perspectives that lead to broader conversations, debates, and brainstorming among audience members. Panel presentations should be limited to no more than 40 minutes, with at least 20 minutes allocated for broader audience discussion.

- **Research Paper** presentation is a 20-minute presentation of a paper that shares research data and/or study findings pertaining to publicly-engaged work focused on grand challenges. For your session, the conference program planners will pair your 20-minute research presentation with another research paper, based on the topic of the research or the theme on which the session is focused.

- **Round Table Session** is a 60-minute, semi-structured, but largely informal open discussion among participants with similar interests to explore one or more issues pertaining to the conference theme. Round Table sessions do not include any formal presentations and are intended to engage all attendees in the discussion.

- **Workshop** is a 60-minute session focused on skill building. All workshops include hands-on activities that focus on building individual attendees' skills, knowledge, and/or understanding. Workshops may include a truncated version or sample of a longer training that offers attendees a glimpse into possible training or professional development opportunities that they might pursue post-conference.

**Proposal Submission**

Submit your proposal electronically through the Conference Website. Proposals are due on Friday, December 15, 2017 by 11:59 pm CST.

The identified lead presenter will receive a confirmation message after submitting the proposal.

The lead presenter will be notified by Friday, January 5, 2018 regarding the outcome of the proposal.

All presenters of accepted proposals will be asked to confirm their participation in the conference by Friday, January 19, 2018.

Please note that due to a limited number of presentation rooms and time slots, we will not be able to accept all proposals that are submitted.

The conference fee is $35 for all attendees, due upon conference registration. The conference fee is waived for students with a University of Minnesota ID.
Selection Criteria

The Proposal Review team will apply the following criteria in selecting proposals:

- Alignment between proposed session content and conference theme;
- Presentation of content that is deemed informative, useful, provocative, and/or cutting edge in furthering attendees’ understanding of the role of publicly-engaged research, teaching, learning, and outreach in addressing society’s grand challenges;
- Clarity of purpose in proposed presentation; and,
- Fit for overall schedule and program (e.g., offerings of different kinds of presentation types across the different themes).

Preference will be given to proposals that offer session attendees lessons learned, clear take aways, and/or next steps.

For additional information or questions, contact Amber Cameron, Associate Director for Public Engagement Initiatives, at acameron@umn.edu.

Additional information about the conference is also available on the conference webpage.