



Call For Presentations

Abstract Deadline: November 16, 2007

2008 Annual EPICS Conference on Service-Learning in Engineering and Computing: May 20-22, 2008

The Annual EPICS Conference Overview

The purpose of the Annual EPICS Conference is to bring together the community involved in integrating the educational needs for realistic design experiences with the technological needs of the local communities through service-learning. The conference format is designed to facilitate discussion and sharing of common experiences, best practices, assessment strategies, institutionalization successes and lessons learned that can be employed across campuses. The emphasis is on discussion and collaboration. There are no formal papers at the conference but abstracts are published and archived on the EPICS Website. The annual conference is made possible with funding from the National Science Foundation through a National Dissemination Grant and is one way that the EPICS Program disseminates information on its model for community-based design education.

Who Should Attend?

Conference attendees include faculty, staff and corporate partners of current and prospective EPICS programs. However, the conference is designed for a broader audience that includes all educators, community members and industrial partners who work with and/or are interested in design education, multidisciplinary teams, community-based design and service-learning.

What is EPICS?

Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) is an engineering design program that operates in a service-learning context. EPICS students earn academic credit for their participation in design teams that solve technology-based problems for not-for-profit organizations in the local community. The teams are: *multidisciplinary* – drawing students from across engineering and around the university; *vertically-integrated* – maintaining a mix of freshmen through seniors each semester; and *long-term* – each student participates in a project for up to seven semesters. The continuity, technical depth, and disciplinary breadth of these teams enable delivery of projects of significant benefit to the community. EPICS was founded at Purdue University in 1995 and has spread to seventeen other campuses. Purdue serves as the headquarters of the EPICS Program.

Do I have to be part of an official EPICS program to be a presenter?

No! We invite faculty and staff who have expertise in any of our areas of interest to propose a session and attend our conference.

Additional information regarding the conference, including past conference content, can be found at <http://epicsnational.ecn.purdue.edu>.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to the following as they relate to service-learning:

- Design Education
- Multidisciplinary teams
- Assessment
- Community partnerships
- Sustaining and institutionalizing programs
- Faculty development
- Entrepreneurship
- K-12 outreach
- Multi-institutional design teams
- Capstone design models
- First-year design experiences
- Curriculum reform

Formats for Presentation (all sessions are 75 minutes in length)

- **Interactive session**, allow short formal presentations from an individual presenters or a panel followed by a discussion period. These sessions are typically 75 minutes in length and involve 3-5 short presentations followed by a facilitated discussion. These sessions are appropriate for presentations on existing programs, emerging trends, current topics, and broad concepts. This session type is best for those wishing to share best practices or lessons learned. Proposals will be accepted for individual presenters, partial or full sessions. If presenters wish to be considered together as a session, either submit a combined abstract or clearly indicate the intended connection on each submission. Individual presenters will be paired with similar presentations
- **Roundtable discussions** are designed to promote open discussion around a topic or theme. Rather than formal presentations, these sessions are facilitated discussions that give session attendees the opportunity to share ideas and experiences. Most sessions will have co-facilitators that represent different models, institutions or viewpoints. Proposed sessions with co-facilitators are welcome. Individual proposals may be grouped with similar topics by the program committee.
- **Poster Sessions** are held to showcase successful programs and share lessons learned. They allow presenters to discuss their successes and challenges with conference attendees informally in small groups. Abstracts of posters are published in the conference program.
- **Pre-Conference Workshops** are designed for topics that require a longer time to discuss [typically 2-4 hours] and actively engage participants. Participants will typically leave the workshop with new materials for use at their respective institutions. An introduction to EPICS workshop is conducted for those new to EPICS. Abstracts are sought as options to this introductory workshop.

Timeline

November 16, 2007	Deadline for submission of abstract proposals.
January 18, 2008	Notification of acceptance.
March 14, 2008	Submission of presentation abstracts for publication in the program
May 20-22, 2008	National EPICS Conference

What Your Abstract Proposal Should Contain

- Your full name, position/title and organization/company/institution
- Complete contact information: mailing address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address
- Abstract title
- Preferred format for presentation (interactive session, roundtable, poster, pre-conference workshop)
- List of additional presenters if more than one and/or list of joint presenters if proposing a combined session
- Abstract proposal (limited to 500 words)

How to Submit Your Abstract

See instructions on the EPICS website (<http://epicsnational.ecn.purdue.edu/>)