

AAAS 'Engaging Scientists in the Science and Religion Dialogue' Project 2018-2019 Engagement Proposal Competition

Graduate students, researchers, postdocs and faculty in STEM¹ fields at the following participating institutions are invited to enter the AAAS 'Engaging Scientists the Science and Religion Dialogue' Public Engagement Competition:

INSTITUTION	ENTRY DEADLINE
Howard University (Washington, D.C.)	February 1st 2019 (11:59PM EST) EXTENDED TO February 15th 2019 (11:59PM EST)
Texas State University (San Marcos, TX)	March 1 st 2019 (11:59PM EST)
Stanford University (Stanford, CA)	December 12th 2018 (11:59PM EST) EXTENDED TO March 1st 2019 (11:59PM EST)
Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)	January 9th 2019 (11:59PM EST) EXTENDED TO April 15th 2019 (11:59PM EST)
University of Maryland- Baltimore County (Baltimore, MD)	February 1st 2019 (11:59PM EST) EXTENDED TO April 15th 2019 (11:59PM EST)
Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)	March 1st 2019 (11:59PM EST) EXTENDED TO April 30th 2019 (11:59PM EST)

This competition was created to inspire scientists, engineers and mathematicians to become more effective ambassadors for their disciplines and for science as a whole with diverse publics, and especially with religious individuals, communities and institutions.

AAAS defines public engagement with science as *"intentional, meaningful interactions that provide opportunities for mutual learning between scientists and members of the public. Mutual learning refers not just to the acquisition of knowledge, but also to increased familiarity with a breadth of perspectives, frames, and worldviews."* In this spirit, and in recognition that scientists are themselves part of a diverse public, entrants must identify at least one representative of a religious/spiritual/philosophical organization (on- or off-campus), community or institution who will be an advisor, host and/or collaborator for the engagement activity.

¹ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. A list of AAAS sections (covering the range of STEM fields) can be found at <https://www.aaas.org/sections>. Please contact [romalley\[at\]aaas.org](mailto:romalley[at]aaas.org) with any question about eligibility.

Eligibility

1. The competition is open to:
 - a. graduate students who, at the time of entry, are enrolled full- or part-time at one of the six participating institutions in pursuit of an advanced degree in any STEM discipline,
 - b. full- or part-time researchers, postdoctoral researchers, or faculty at one of the participating institutions already holding a Master's degree or PhD in a STEM discipline.
2. As a condition of eligibility, before submission the entrant must join the DoSER Engaging Scientists network as a "Science Ambassador." The entrant must recruit at least one "Community Representative" to the Engaging Scientists Network to be an advisor and/or collaborator for the ongoing or proposed engagement activity. This Community Representative should also join the network prior to entry submission. The network sign-up portal is here:

<https://engagingscientists.aaas.org>

A "Community Representative" refers to a pastor or other member of the clergy, a public program director, faculty member, or educational instructor. This representative must have authority over programming decisions and event organization within or involving a religious/spiritual/philosophical organization, community, or institution that will be involved in the engagement activity. If for some reason the designated Community Representative cannot continue with the project after submission, an alternate representative with comparable authority from that same community can be designated.

3. The entrant must attend a AAAS-DoSER engagement workshop on their campus (see institutional pages for workshop dates and times) or at an academic society meeting (see the www.aaas.org/DoSER website for upcoming academic society events in 2018-2019).

Submission

An eligible submission will include the following:

- a. A **short essay** (maximum 1500 words in length; written in English; typed and double spaced in a standard 12-point font with 1" margins) outlining:
 - i. the entrant's perspective on the need for scientists and science advocates to effectively engage with a broader spectrum of publics, and particularly with religious individuals, communities and institutions, on a particular science or technology topic or issue, and the entrant's interest in participating in or facilitating such a dialogue;
 - ii. A specific public engagement activity (or set of activities) on one or more science topics that includes dialogue with religious individuals, communities and/or institutions. Examples of such public engagement activities might include (but are not limited to):
 1. A dialogue-focused event or event series on campus involving scientists, ethicists and community faith-leaders on the selected science and technology topic;
 2. Participation by the entrant in one or more panels or discussions of science and technology topics with religious communities or institutions (e.g., at local mosques, synagogues, churches, senior centers, Boy/Girl Scout events, etc.); OR

3. A short film, comic, poster, or other media content about a topic at the intersection of science and technology with broader society, with clear and explicit relevance to faith perspectives.
 - iii. A description of how this award would recognize, facilitate, extend or expand this specific public engagement activity;
 - iv. A complete bibliography should be included, if appropriate. The bibliography and/or footnotes will not count towards the word limit.
 - v. Inclusion of appropriate photos, short video clips, graphics or other media to complement the essay is strongly encouraged but not required. Any such graphics should be properly sourced and free of copyright.
- b. A **summary** of the project (maximum 80 words in length) and **project title**. Titles and summaries for eligible submissions will be posted online on the AAAS-DoSER website.
- c. A 1-page **letter of support** from the collaborating community representative, affirming their interest, involvement, and/or support for the project and confirmation of their registration in the Engaging Scientists Network as a “Community Representative.”
- d. An engagement **product**, either in finished form or in-progress, illustrating the nature and impact of the ongoing or prospective public engagement activity. In the case of a prospective activity, this product will be an example of a possible outcome. Such products can be included in the submission or (if hosted online) shared via weblink. Examples of such products might include:
 - i. A short write-up (for a blog post or article in a university newspaper or faith group bulletin) outlining an initial pilot event or activity that the entrant organized, with photos or other supporting media;
 - ii. A short video clip of a film in development or post-production;
 - iii. Sample pages of a comic or other artwork in progress;
 - iv. A pdf of a poster describing the public science engagement initiative submitted to an institutional, regional or disciplinary academic meeting; OR
 - v. A pdf of an educational poster exploring a science topic or issue from a variety of perspectives, including one or more faith perspectives

Award submissions created as part of other grants, as part of research projects, as class assignments or other activities are eligible for submission but all entries must be the original, unpublished work of the individual making the submission. An individual may submit only one entry for the contest. Prizes for winning entries will be awarded to the specific individual submitting the entry, not to a group or organization, though the public engagement activity or product can be a collaborative effort with others (in which case all contributions must be duly credited in the submission).

The **short essay** and/or engagement **product** may be posted online at AAAS’ discretion.

The AAAS reserves the right to exclude any entry deemed inappropriate for the competition due to content or subject matter, at its sole discretion.

Judging

Entries will be judged on the submitted short essays. Entries for each institution will be evaluated and winners chosen by a panel of three AAAS representatives and two representatives of the host institution. The project title and summaries submitted from each institution will be posted online, and

an institutional “popular vote” will be determined in a manner chosen in consultation with the host institution and announced along with the award winners. The popular vote winner may or may not be one of the project award winners, but regardless will receive a separate certificate of recognition.

Essays will be evaluated for:

- (1) Relevance to the theme (science engagement with religious publics and institutions);
- (2) Writing quality and clarity;
- (3) Originality and creativity;
- (4) Feasibility of the described activity or product;
- (5) Compliance with the essay competition requirements, including identification of a community representative to partner with for the proposed engagement plan or project.

Note that no more than one award will be given per institution for a proposal that is *exclusively* focused on conservation or climate change, in order to encourage science engagement on a broad spectrum of topics of interest to society.

Prizes

Up to four winning entries for each institution will be chosen and announced at the AAAS-DoSER Engaging Scientists event on campus (or at a later date TBD, for institutions holding their campus events before the submission deadline). Each selected winning entry will receive a \$1000 award.

In addition to having their work featured in project media and promotional activities, award winners may be invited to present their work/ideas as participants in subsequent on campus-events, podcasts, or other institutional engagement or media forums.

How to Enter

Entries must be submitted by email to DoSER@AAAS.org with “Engaging Scientists Award Submission-[YOUR INSTITUTION] - [YOUR FULL NAME]” as the subject line by the deadline for your participating institution. Late submissions will not be accepted. Entries can be submitted in either Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format.

General Prize Conditions

Employees of AAAS or The John Templeton Foundation, its affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising or promotional agencies, suppliers, vendors and/or service providers, and their immediate family members or persons living in the same household are not eligible. The potential Winner will be required to execute an Affidavit of Eligibility, Release of Liability and Prize Acceptance Form (collectively, the “Prize Claim Documents”). If the Winner fails or refuses to sign and return the Prize Claim Documents within three (3) days of prize notification, the Winner may be disqualified. Prizes are not transferable and not assignable. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute prize(s) of comparable or greater value in the event a prize or any portion thereof becomes unavailable for any reason. The Winner shall be solely responsible for all taxes and fees or costs associated with the prize, including but not limited to any federal or state or other income tax.

Winners are expected to make a good-faith effort to complete the public engagement activity described in their entry, and to share some details of any outcomes (photos, videos, blog posts, twitter commentary, press, final product) with the AAAS-DoSER program.

Rights

Participants (referring to both the individual submitting a proposal and the community representative collaborator) retain ownership of materials submitted to the Competition. However, by submitting a proposal to the Competition, the participants hereby grant to AAAS and its affiliates, subsidiaries, licensees and assigns, an irrevocable, perpetual and royalty-free right to use, reproduce, edit, display, transmit, prepare derivative works of, modify, publish and otherwise make use of the submitted essay and product as-submitted in any and all media, whether now known or hereinafter created, throughout the world and for any purpose. Where practicable, the essay will be attributed to the author(s) and the affiliated institution.

In addition, by submitting any essay, support letter and other content to the Competition, participants hereby represent and warrant that the submitted materials do not and shall not infringe on any copyright or other right of any third party, and that participant has the right to grant any and all rights and licenses granted to AAAS herein, including but not limited to all necessary rights under copyright, free and clear of any claims or encumbrances.

Release

Acceptance of a prize constitutes the Winner's permission for AAAS to use prize winner's name and likeness for advertising and/or promotional purposes worldwide and in all forms of media in perpetuity without further compensation or authorization. Participants agree that AAAS and its affiliates, and their officers, employees, agents and representatives (collectively, the "Sponsoring Entities"), shall not be responsible for any losses, damages or injuries of any kind resulting from participation in the Competition or from Participants' acceptance, receipt, possession and/or use or misuse of any prize. Participants also agree that the Sponsoring Entities have not made and shall not in any manner be liable for any warranty, guarantee, or representation, whether express or implied, with respect to any prize, including without limitation, the prize's quality or fitness for a particular purpose. AAAS reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual who is found to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the Competition, to be acting in violation of these Official Rules, or who otherwise takes actions that do or are intended to disrupt or undermine the legitimate operation of the Competition. AAAS also reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any entry containing any obscene, offensive or otherwise inappropriate comments or other matter. Further, AAAS assumes no liability, and shall not be liable, for typographical or other errors in the offer or administration of the Competition including, without limitation, errors in the printing or display of the offer and official rules, selection, notification and announcement of winners.

Governing Law

All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, interpretation and enforceability of these Official Rules shall be governed and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of New York without regard to the choice of law provisions thereof.

Names of Winners

For the name of winners, refer to <http://aaas.org/DoSER/> or send, within six months from the end of the Entry Period, a written request and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: AAAS Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion Program, 1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005. Washington and Vermont residents may omit return postage.

More information about the competition is available at: <http://aaas.org/DoSER>

Questions should be directed to Rob O'Malley (romalley[at]aaas.org or 202-326-6518).