



AGC EDUCATION & RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Announcing the 38th Annual

2021 James L. Allhands Essay Competition

Deadline for Submission: November 15, 2020

The James L. Allhands Essay Competition was established by the late James L. Allhands, one of the founding members of AGC and a prolific writer of construction related works. The award recognizes a student essay on a specific topic that is deemed to be beneficial to the advancement of technological, educational, or vocational expertise in the construction industry.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any full-time student who has attained a four-year or five-year senior-level standing in a four-year ABET or ACCE-accredited (or candidate status) university construction or construction-related engineering program is eligible to compete for the Allhands Award. Class status and full-time registration of the student must be verified in a letter from the faculty sponsor of the student's major department. Each essay may have only one author, and each author may submit only one essay.

ESSAY FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

- The essay must be written using Microsoft Word
- Times New Roman font; 12 point; double spaced
- Margins - top and bottom - 1"; Sides - 1.25"
- Pages numbered at center bottom

The essay **MUST NOT** exceed ten (10) pages including charts, graphics and the bibliography page. The 10-page limit does not include the required cover title page and a one-page abstract. The abstract **MUST NOT** exceed 100 words following the same page format.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The subject relating to construction and/or general contracting will be general management-oriented rather than technical in nature, and will change for each Allhands Award competition.

2021 ALLHANDS ESSAY COMPETITION TOPIC

The topic for the 2021 Allhands Essay Competition is ***"How New, Innovative Technology and Project Execution Tools and Techniques Can Be Used to Improve the Construction Process (Including Safety and Efficiency)."***

The construction industry continues to perform well and all indications are that the construction economy will continue to expand. However, recruiting enough employees to perform this work remains a challenge. The last four *AGC's Construction Hiring and Business Outlook Reports* have reported that most construction companies find it hard to locate, hire and retain both craft and professional employees. In addition, like all businesses, contractors must continue to seek ways to improve efficiency in order to remain competitive.

In an effort to address this problem, more companies are using technologies to compensate for a lack of skilled workers and managers and to achieve greater efficiency and safety. Many companies are investing in new, labor-saving equipment including UAV's, robots, 3-D printers, and laser- or GPS-guided equipment, and using new techniques such as modular construction, virtual imaging, bar coding, and laser scanning. Yet this is no easy solution as many companies are concerned with not only the cost but the time it takes to implement and train on these technologies.

In your essay, please address, as a minimum, the following discussion points related to the topic using research and examples from your own experience to support your position:

- Identify and describe those Innovative Technology and Project Execution Tools and Techniques that you feel could improve the construction process
- What is your own experience with these technologies, tools or techniques?
- How is the construction industry addressing this issue, and what are the potential advantages and disadvantages?
- What are your suggestions for addressing challenges?
- Discuss the role that an organization such as the AGC might play in addressing issues related to this topic?

SUBMISSION

Students **MUST** email: Student checklist; 100-word abstract; essay; and faculty sponsor letter and checklist to Foundation Director Melinda Patrician at patricianm@agc.org. Students will receive email notification of receipt.

FACULTY SPONSOR REQUIREMENTS

The faculty sponsor **MUST** confirm by a signed letter on university stationary the student's full time and class status. A signed checklist is also required to verify that the essay was proofed for grammar and technical errors, is ready for publication, and has not been plagiarized. The letter and checklist will be part of the student's submission in an Adobe pdf file. *No more than five (5) submissions from each college or university will be accepted.*

AWARDS

For qualified entries, prizes will be awarded as follows:

- **FIRST PRIZE, STUDENT:** \$1,000 and trip to the 2021 AGC Annual Convention. Prize includes round-trip airfare, plus meals and lodging for five days.
- **FIRST PRIZE, FACULTY:** \$500 and a trip for the faculty sponsor to the 2021 AGC Annual Convention. Prize includes round-trip airfare, plus meals and lodging for five days.
- **SECOND PRIZE, STUDENT:** \$500
- **THIRD PRIZE, STUDENT:** \$300

Note: No cash substitutions will be provided if the first prize winning student or his/her faculty sponsor choose not to participate in the convention trips. Allhands Essay winners will be notified by e-mail in Jan/Feb 2021. Public announcement will be made at the AGC Annual Convention in March 2021 by the AGC Foundation President. In the event an essay is not deemed satisfactory, or does not comply with the essay requirements, the AGC Foundation Board may, at its sole discretion, find the essay unacceptable or limit the number of winners.

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