

Student Activities: RAL Student Competition

Executive Summary

The RAL Student Competition consists of a two-stage soft-skill competition involving a first chapter-level phase and a second one at RAL level during the regular CRC. The competition is in-line with the recent move by ASHRAE to join REHVA in their HVAC World Student Competition during which students are invited to present papers related to HVAC@R and the top performing students are awarded prizes and certificates. The RAL would be ready, once the competition is implemented, to contribute either through ASHRAE or directly to the REHVA competition should ASHRAE decide to move forward with the idea. The entire process will greatly improve the image of ASHRAE in the student environment and may lead for sure to an improved student membership that can be transformed into regular membership later on.

Preamble

The RAL Student Competition aims at gathering students from all over RAL chapters for a one-day competition to be held parallel to the technical program of the CRC. The competition will involve all chapters and requires their effective contribution either directly or through sponsorship, as well as the contribution of RAL.

The competition is more of a soft-skill-oriented competition and does not involve any direct technical issues as technical competitions are being tackled by the Society on a yearly basis (Student Design Competition). The main objective is to enhance the soft skills of future ASHRAE members and contribute to identifying the future leaders of RAL and the Society. All student members will be invited to compete by delivering a presentation about a topic related to the core activities of ASHRAE. In such a way, the competition will fulfill a two-fold objective. On one side, the students will learn about the technology tackled by ASHRAE, preferably advanced topics, and experience its importance in nowadays world, and on the other, they practice their leadership skill and learn how to stand in front of an audience to talk about a topic they master very well. This will instill in them the confidence needed to become a future leader.

Process

The competition consists of two stages; the first is organized at a chapter level and the second at the regional level.

The chapter-level stage will be used to filter the applications and select the best candidates to compete at regional scale at the CRC. Chapters are completely responsible of organizing the competition at their own levels and have to select the best candidates to participate in the regional competition. They will be mainly responsible of advertising the event, selecting a venue for its organization, making available the needed resources, filtering the applications and submitting their names to the region.

The RAL will take care of organizing the event at the location of the CRC and the associated logistics exactly as it is done for the delegates attending the CRC. The jury of the competition will include the members of the RAL Student Competition Committee (Chair, RVC, 2 ARVCs and 1 member).



Additional judges may be selected from the pool of SA Chairs attending the CRC if deemed necessary in order to enhance the judging process.

Time line

The chapter-level competition should be completed by the end of June every year with the names of selected candidates ready to be submitted to RAL through the RVC-SA by June 30. The regional level will take place at the CRC in a student gathering parallel to the technical program. The awards at RAL level are:

1. First place: Certificate and 750USD stipend;
2. Second place: Certificate and 500USD stipend;
3. Third place: Certificate and 250USD stipend;
4. All other contestants: Certificate of attendance.

The rewards are to be split equally in case of a tie. From a practical point of view, participating students have to contribute from their own resources and will be reimbursed by RAL if they win any of the first three prizes. RAL may approve additional funding under the form of travel support and accommodations if allowed by budgetary constraints.

Requirements

At the time of the chapter-level competition, contestants should be enrolled in an institution with an active student branch.

Teams are allowed with a maximum of three (3) people. The awards, if any, will be shared among members. RAL reserves the right to limit the support to a maximum of one student per chapter.

Presentations should be in English and should tackle advanced topics related to HVAC&R. The time allocated is 15 minutes with 5 more minutes for Q&As.

Judging Criteria

Rubric-based assessment (attached).