



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 Courtney Bishop at courtney.bishop@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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Student Checklist

2021 James L. Allhands Essay Competition
Deadline for Submission: November 15, 2020

Complete and return this checklist with your e-mail essay submission for the 2021 James L. Allhands Essay Competition:

ESSAY SUBMITTED BY:

Name:
E-mail:
College or University:
Degree Program:
Expected Address in Feb./Mar. 2021:
Street:
City/State/ZIP:
Home Phone:
Mobile Phone:
Essay Word Count:
Essay Page Count:

The following items are to be included with this application for the 2021 Allhands Competition:

1. Completed Student Checklist (this page)
2. Letter from faculty sponsor on university letterhead confirming student's full time and class status, AND signed faculty sponsor checklist verifying that the essay was proofed for grammar and technical errors; is ready for publication; and has not been plagiarized.
3. A 100-word abstract (not included in 10-page essay maximum)
4. Double-spaced, typed essay, 10-pages maximum including charts, graphics and the bibliography page. The title page is not included in the 10-page maximum. (see Essay Format Requirements)

I hereby submit the enclosed essay for consideration in the James L. Allhands Essay Competition and attest that I am its sole author.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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2021 James L. Allhands Essay Competition

All essays will be evaluated by a team of contractors and educators from the AGC Foundation Board of Directors. It should be noted that the following items are MAJOR considerations in judging the entries:

- Clarity
- Original, unique ideas
- Specific examples to support opinions
- Grammar, spelling, punctuation
- Neatness
- Adherence to format and MLA standards
- Adherence to guidelines such as length, abstract, bibliography, submission deadline

2021 James L. Allhands Essay Competition Topic

How New, Innovative Technology and Project Execution Tools and Techniques Can Be Used to Improve the Construction Process (Including Safety and Efficiency).

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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.

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- 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?

Each essay should contain at least (3) three references to support the author's position. These references should be used minimally to support the author's unique position, rather than comprise the majority of the essay. You may use any available reference material as a resource, including the Internet, personal interviews with experts in the field, popular magazines, etc. Please use the Modern Language Association (MLA) bibliography format for any works cited:

MAGAZINE & NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Author. "Title of Article." Title of Periodical Date: First page-last page.

MAGAZINE & NEWSPAPER ARTICLES ACCESSED ONLINE Author. "Article." Periodical Date: First page-last page. Access Date URL.

ARTICLE FROM A REFERENCE BOOK

Author. "Title of Article." Book Title: Subtitle. Editor. Place: Publisher, Date. First page-last page.

WEBSITE OR WEBPAGE

Author. Title. Editor. Date. Institution. Access Date URL. Websites offering "user-generated content" should be noted as such.

Charts and graphical illustrations are welcomed, but should not comprise more than 1-2 pages of the entire essay. Full-color chart and graphs are not required; black and white versions are acceptable. Unless original, chart and graph sources should be supplied.

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Faculty Sponsor Checklist

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Complete and return this checklist along with your signed letter on university letterhead verifying the student's full-time and class status. This checklist verifies that the essay was proofed for grammar and technical errors, is ready for publication, and has not been plagiarized.

FACULTY SPONSOR NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____

DEPARTMENT _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

NAME OF STUDENT _____

- Student's essay has been proofed for grammar and technical errors and is ready for publication.
- Student's essay follows award guidelines and is of no more than ten (10) total pages including charts and graphs.
- A 100 word abstract (not counted in the ten (10) page limit) is included.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

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