

2007 AITP National Collegiate Contest Update

The 2007 AITP National Collegiate Conference in Detroit, Michigan, offers some of the most exciting competition events in the 12-year history of the conference! With the addition of three new competitions and reorganization of the language-centric contests, this year's gathering offers more opportunity to an even broader range of students. Everyone from freshman to seniors to graduates - those enrolled in CIS or CS - has a chance to participate to win bragging rights, a showcase plaque, and let's not forget ... prize money!

For students who may not be on the "programming track" at their institution, the NCC has always offered the Student Paper, Systems Analysis & Design, Database Design, and Network Design competitions. Additionally, the Web Design competition sought to allow students to exhibit some of their creative graphic ability but still had a distinct programming component. While the Systems Analysis & Design, Database, and Network competitions are still available, this year, the NCC offers three new non-programming competitions:

*** MS Office Solutions**

The MS Office Solutions competition will allow students to utilize skills learned and apply them to a simulated business problem statement. In today's business world, there are all sorts of professionals who use the different platforms of MS Office Suite to help address a broad array of business processes in order to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing business environment. This contest will involve the use of the data analysis features of access and excel and the presentation skills of PowerPoint and/or Word to make your recommendations to the judges after having analyzed the raw data and drawn appropriate conclusions.

*** Business Intelligence**

The primary goal of the competition is to utilize geographic information system technology and some business analysis skill to address a common business intelligence scenario. As part of the competition student teams will be presented with a business scenario related to business continuity planning, market campaign planning, site selection, or supply chain logistics analysis.

*** Visual Communications**

The Visual Communication Competition will require students to develop an ad campaign which will communicate a business concept that will be provided to the students at the start of the competition. Students will be allowed to use any appropriate digital media to convey their message.

The addition of these three contests reflects the breadth of today's IT student. The traditional curriculum of raw-programming and systems design does not fit every student, and these contests seek to fill the gap and provide challenges to future professionals.

In line with the goal of offering as much opportunity to as broad a range of students as possible, changes were made to the language-based contests as well. The previous

contest events for COBOL, Java, Visual Studio.Net, and Web Design have been replaced with an all-encompassing **Application Development** contest. This event challenges students to develop a solution to a more generalized problem statement. Teams can use any development platform they desire (within certain technical bounds), and may be comprised of twice as many individuals and workstations. An additional amount of time is also provided. This is an exciting new opportunity that will allow students to display their problem solving skills and creativity.

Finally, previous years' Student Chapter Web Project has been revived as the simply-named Web Project Contest. While the previous contest focused on the student chapter developing prescribed functionality into their local chapter's online presence, the new Web Project Contest seeks to get student chapters involved in their local communities. Participating chapters have submitted proposals to develop IT-based systems for local charities and organizations and will implement the solutions during the spring semester. Teams will then present their solution onsite to a panel of judges. Admittedly, this is one of the most subjective contests the NCC has to offer, but the goal of this contest is to allow for ultimate freedom, flexibility, and creativity, and also to get students involved in their local community.

The 2007 AITP National Collegiate Conference will be a landmark year for competition events! If you haven't made plans already to attend, online registration is open at www.aitp.org/ncc . For TONS of information regarding ALL the contest events, simply visit the official contest site at www.aitpncc-contests.org.

See you in Detroit!

Eric Rudisill

2007 AITP NCC Contest Director (erudisill@cphandheld.com)