

## **AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Meeting**

2017 Annual Meeting  
American Association of Geographers  
**West Lakes Division**  
October 19-21

Missouri State University  
West Plains, MO

### Guidelines

The new AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper is designed to incentivize participation by graduate students at fall regional meetings of the American Association of Geographers (AAG), and to support graduate student participation at the springtime AAG Annual Meeting. Each Awardee (up to one graduate student per AAG Division) will receive \$1,000 in funding from the AAG to be used toward registration and travel costs to attend the AAG Annual Meeting.

For this award, the West Lakes Division AAG (WLDAAG) Executive Committee is sponsoring a competition at the West Lakes Division's fall meeting that is open to all graduate students who are AAG members residing in the West Lakes region (i.e., in the purple region of the map at [http://www.aag.org/cs/about\\_aag/regional\\_divisions](http://www.aag.org/cs/about_aag/regional_divisions)). The rules for this competition are as follows:

1. A graduate student entering the competition must be (1) a current member of the American Association of Geographers, and (2) a current student in an MA/MS or PhD program within the West Lakes Division.
2. The award candidate is required to present an oral paper at the WLDAAG fall meeting. (In 2017 the WLDAAG is meeting at Missouri State University in West Plains, Missouri). The paper topic must be recent and original work completed by the student as primary and first author.
3. Each contestant must register for the conference and submit an abstract for an oral presentation following procedures and deadlines determined by the host institution of the fall regional meeting. In the West Lakes Division, no written paper is required to enter the competition.
4. The oral presentations entered in the competition will be judged by faculty members in the WLDAAG; judges will not be allowed to score submissions by students from their own institution or where a conflict of interest exists.
5. If more than one student ties for top score on the oral presentation, a vote of the three member WLDAAG Executive Committee (Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, AAG Regional Councillor) will determine the award winner. All scoring will remain confidential and will not be shared, and all decisions of the judges and WLDAAG Executive Committee are final.
6. The Awardee will be required to make arrangements with the WLDAAG Treasurer and the AAG national office to be reimbursed for expenses related to registering for and traveling to the AAG National Meeting.

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7. To register for the 2017 fall West Lakes AAG Conference visit [wp.missouristate.edu/aag/](http://wp.missouristate.edu/aag/). Please e-mail [rajivthakur@missouristate.edu](mailto:rajivthakur@missouristate.edu), WLDAAG Chair, with any questions.

Note: This special award competition does not replace the annual competitions for best student oral paper and poster presentations. Competitions for undergraduates (BA/BS) and graduate students (MA/MS and PhD) will continue to be held at each fall meeting of the WLDAAG. Graduate students entering the competition for the AAG Council Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper at a Regional Meeting are also eligible for the WLDAAG annual student oral presentation competition, and must enter that competition following procedures specified at the meeting registration website.