



Spotlight on Education Competition

Overview

The Spotlight on Education competition offers students a unique opportunity to engage with highly skilled educational professionals who specialize outside the core subjects. The competition aims to highlight the invaluable contributions of instructional-support specialists in shaping students' lives. These specialists encompass a diverse range of roles, including:

- Special Education Teacher
- Speech Pathologist
- School Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist
- School Administrator
- School Counselor
- School Social Worker
- Librarian
- Non-core subject teacher
- Curriculum specialist

Participants will select one specialized instructional support specialist to shadow and interview. Each student will obtain permission to shadow the professional for a total of four (4) hours, which can be accumulated over several days or weeks to observe the specialist in their active work environment.

Competitors are required to complete and submit two career exploration documents by the deadline:

A. [Host educator's verification form](#)

B. [Interview form](#)

Students participating in this competition will create a trifold poster display showcasing their research on the chosen profession and detailing their insights gathered from the job shadowing and interview experiences. Poster sessions, like those held at professional conferences, will allow judges and fellow participants to review these displays during breakout sessions I and II. Each competitor must be present and stand by their poster to discuss their findings and answer questions.

Participation Details

- This is an individual competition.
- Up to two (2) entries per chapter will be accepted. Each chapter must select one or two students to represent them.
- A maximum of twenty-four (24) entries total will be accepted, on a first-come, first-served basis.



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Competition Guidelines

- A. The shadowing experience must be for a total of 4 hours.
- B. The competitor must interview the host educator. ***The interview form along with the host educator's verification form*** must be submitted by ***5:00 pm on Friday, November 8, 2024.***
- C. **Both forms** must be attached to a single email as PDF files. The email should be sent to feaconference@fiu.edu. The email subject line must include the competitor's full name and the name of the competition. Forms received after this deadline will not be considered.
- D. Students will create a display that reflects the job-shadowing experience, career research, interview with the educator, and their insight into a career in the educator's field.
- E. Display boards should be a standard, three-panel display board that unfolds to be 36" tall by 48" wide and include:
 1. Summary of the professional's duties and responsibilities.
 2. A description of a typical day at the educator's job.
 3. Training/education required for the job and where you can get it.
 4. Classes that might teach the skills that would be necessary for the job.
 5. Your thoughts on the professional's duties and responsibilities.
 6. Your thoughts on whether this may be a career you consider for you in the future.
 7. Photos are optional.
- F. Students should be prepared to answer questions and have a discussion with the on-site judges.
- G. All display boards will need to be removed from the competition room before the closing session.

Judging and Scoring

- A. Competitors must be present at the scheduled time or will be considered disqualified.
- B. The judges' decision is final.
- C. Competitors agree to be bound by the FEA General Competition Rules.
- D. The entry will be scored using the Spotlight on Education Careers Competition rubric.

How to Enter

- A. Up to two (2) entries per chapter will be accepted. Each chapter must select one or two students to represent them.
- B. All entries for individual and/or chapter competitions must be submitted by the chapter's sponsoring teacher via the [Online Competition Entry Form](#) by **5:00 pm, on Friday, November 1, 2024.**
- C. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.

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Poster Display

Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Content	The content of the presentation board reflects consistent thoughtfulness and thoroughness and brings out key insights about the competitor's experience and research with clarity and professionalism.	The content of the presentation board reflects some key facts and details of the competitor's experience and research. The content reflects enough insight to achieve moderate impact.	The content of the presentation board reflects compliance with the guidelines but does not explore the material with sufficient depth to achieve a strong impact.	The content of the presentation board reflects an incomplete understanding or focus. Key insights may be missing, off-topic or superficial.
Depth of Analysis	The competitor synthesizes his/her learning from the career exploration experience with skill, clarity, and depth.	The competitor offers good ideas and insight about the career exploration experience but stays primarily at a surface level for analysis.	The competitor depends significantly on reciting the interviewee's words or provides a limited analysis of the career exploration experience.	The information presented offers very little or no insight or quality analysis into the competitor's takeaways from the career exploration experience.
Display Board Presentation	The competitor utilizes the display board to bring out key insights with clarity and professionalism. The display board is attractive in terms of design, layout, and neatness and presents the information in a clear and concise manner.	The competitor utilizes the display board to bring out key insights with some clarity and professionalism. The design and layout could benefit from a small number of tweaks to consistently present the information in a clear and concise manner.	The display board reflects compliance with the guidelines, but the design and layout do not display the information in a neat, clear, and concise manner.	The display board does not reflect compliance with the guidelines. The display may be basic or contain images or text that distracts from the competitor's messages. Those messages may lack clarity or focus.

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Q&A Presentation

Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Q&A	<p>The competitor's responses demonstrated consistent thoughtfulness and professional-caliber insight, rooted in the deep experience of exploring this career path.</p> <p>The competitor displays an impressive, professional-level depth of knowledge and understanding given his/her experience and research.</p>	<p>The competitor's responses demonstrated thoughtfulness and reflected successful attempts to address most of the material posed to him/her.</p> <p>The competitor displays knowledge and understanding of the selected career based on his/her experience and research.</p>	<p>The competitor's responses reflected some knowledge and understanding of the selected career based on his/her experience and research and a broad spectrum of levels of quality from answer to answer.</p>	<p>The competitor's responses reflected limited understanding or misunderstanding of the presentation guidelines, expectations, or the career to be explored.</p>
Overall Impact	<p>The presentation is thoroughly professional caliber in the expert blending of style, substance, and impromptu responses to questions.</p>	<p>The presentation is commendable for its effort and the presenter's desire to take on this challenge.</p> <p>The competitor makes straightforward points that could convey a greater impact with guided practice in presentation creation and delivery.</p>	<p>The presentation reflects a developing effort in exploring the selected career. Additional depth or articulating understanding would improve the presentation significantly.</p>	<p>The presentation requires a significant re-examining of the career exploration process undertaken for the competition. Limited depth or misunderstanding hindered the presentation from offering the level of insight that it could.</p>