



Spotlight on Education Competition

Overview

The Spotlight on Education competition offers students a unique opportunity to engage with highly skilled educational professionals who specialize in subjects beyond the core curriculum. 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 conduct an interview with. 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, which are available on FIU's FEA Regional Conference website.

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

B. [Interview form](#)

Students participating in this competition will create a tri-fold 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 in total will be accepted, on a first-come, first-served basis.



Spotlight on Education Competition

Competition Guidelines

- A. The shadowing experience must be for a total of 4 hours.
- B. The competitor must interview the host educator. **Both the completed Host Educator's Verification Form and Interview Form must be brought to the conference and placed next to the competitor's tri-fold poster display.**
- C. Judges will review both forms during the competition as they circulate among the displays. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure that the forms are visible and available for review. Forms that are not present at the time of the judging 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 and education required for the job, and where you can obtain them.
 - 4. Classes that teach the skills 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 yourself 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 must be removed from the competition room before the closing session.

Judging and Scoring

- A. Competitors must be present at the scheduled time; otherwise, they will be 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 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, October 30, 2026.**
- C. Entries submitted by email will not be accepted.

Spotlight on Education Competition

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, bringing out key insights into 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, and demonstrates enough insight to achieve a moderate impact.	The content of the presentation board reflects compliance with the guidelines, but does not delve into the material sufficiently to achieve a substantial impact.	The content of the presentation board reflects an incomplete understanding or a lack of 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 into 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 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 visually appealing in terms of design, layout, and neatness, presenting the information clearly and concisely.	The competitor effectively utilizes the display board to convey key insights with clarity and professionalism. The design and layout could benefit from a few minor adjustments to present the information clearly and concisely.	The display board reflects compliance with the guidelines; however, the design and layout do not present 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.
Points Available	4		0	
Host Educator's Verification Form	The competitor provided the completed Host Educator's Verification Form for the judges' review.		The competitor did not provide the completed Host Educator's Verification Form for the judges' review.	
Interview Form	The competitor provided the completed Interview Form for the judges' review.		The competitor did not provide the completed Interview Form for the judges' review.	



Spotlight on Education Competition

Q&A Presentation

Points Available	Accomplished 16 – 13	Commendable 12 – 9	Developing 8 – 5	Needs Improvement 4 – 1
Q&A	The competitor's responses demonstrate consistent thoughtfulness and professional-caliber insight, rooted in the deep experience of exploring this career path. The competitor displays an impressive, professional-level depth of knowledge and understanding given his/her experience and research.	The competitor's responses demonstrated thoughtfulness and reflected successful attempts to address most of the material posed to him/her. The competitor demonstrates knowledge and understanding of the selected career, based on their experience and research.	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.	The competitor's responses reflected a limited understanding or a misunderstanding of the presentation guidelines, expectations, or the career being explored.
Overall Impact	The presentation is of a thoroughly professional caliber, expertly blending style, substance, and impromptu responses to questions.	The presentation is commendable for its effort and the presenter's desire to take on this challenge. The competitor makes straightforward points that could convey a greater impact with guided practice in presentation creation and delivery.	The presentation reflects a developing effort in exploring the selected career. Additional depth or articulation of understanding would significantly improve the presentation.	The presentation necessitates a thorough reevaluation 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.