

Indiana Association for Institutional Research (INAIR) Best Paper Award

Purpose

In an attempt to provide continued professional development opportunities for its members, the Indiana Association for Institutional Research has established an **INAIR Best Paper Award**. This opportunity is open to all affiliate members who are interested in developing a paper for possible publication in one of the many publishing outlets in institutional research and higher education. Papers submitted for consideration must meet the necessary criteria in order to be considered. The criteria are outlined below.

The paper selected annually to receive the INAIR Best Paper Award will be disseminated widely. Upon suggested revision (if necessary), the manuscript will be professionally typeset and distributed to all INAIR members, as well as posted on the INAIR website. In addition, the association will recommend to the national affiliate (Association for Institutional Research) that the paper be considered for presentation at the AIR Annual Forum on behalf of INAIR. This AIR Forum presentation recommendation will occur in addition to the recommendation of the INAIR Annual *Best Presentation*.

This opportunity is not intended to replace the INAIR Best Presentation Award presented each year to the paper, panel, or workshop rated highest by conference attendees. That peer recognition award will continue parallel to the Best Paper Award.

Criteria for Judging

Papers will be judged by a review committee comprised of selected INAIR members and other with experience in reviewing papers for publication in higher education.

Importance of Paper

- ❑ topic is appropriate for and applicable to the INAIR membership.
- ❑ topic is of practical use and will be of utilitarian value.
- ❑ presentation of the topic generates reader interest
- ❑ relationship of the research problem to the literature is clear
- ❑ paper makes a significant contribution to institutional research

Organization of the Paper

- ❑ paper is logically organized and clearly written
- ❑ research problem (topic) is clearly stated
- ❑ assumptions are made clear
- ❑ method of analysis is appropriate
- ❑ discussion considers the limitations of the study
- ❑ conclusions are clearly stated
- ❑ conclusions are substantiated by the evidence presented
- ❑ conclusions are significant to the research problem

Manuscript Guidelines

Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced throughout, including block quotes and references, and each page should be numbered consecutively. An electronic copy of the manuscript must be submitted for review. The name(s), institutional affiliation, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of the author(s) should appear on a separate cover page to assure anonymity in the review process. Authors should not place their names on the manuscript and should obscure identifiable citations. Manuscripts typically should not exceed thirty (30) pages in length, including references and biography. An abstract of more than 100 words is required. Authors should follow the editorial guidelines as cited in the current edition (5th) of Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.

Deadlines

To be considered for the 2007 INAIR Best Paper Award, manuscripts must be received by April 13, 2007.

Miscellaneous

Papers submitted for consideration for INAIR Best Paper Award may also be submitted as conference papers for the association annual meetings. In general, the Best Paper review committee will not automatically consider papers presented at the association's annual meeting unless submitted for that particular purpose.

INAIR Best Paper Award manuscripts and all correspondence relative to the INAIR Best Paper Award or criteria should be addressed to the Publications Member-at-Large.