Calling all great orators! All participants of the 14th Annual Graduate Research Symposium are invited to display their elocutionary expertise in the symposium’s first ever elevator pitch competition!

‘Pitches in a Pinch’ is a competition to find the best 90 second “elevator pitch” presentation. An elevator pitch is a succinct, persuasive speech used to spark interest in a project, product, idea, or yourself. All accepted presenters of the 14th Annual Graduate Research Symposium are eligible to compete. You can pitch your research, pitch a potential project, or you can even pitch yourself. Be creative!

Grand Prize $1000
2nd Place $500
3rd Place $250
People’s Choice Mystery Prize

Eligible contestants should submit a 90 second video pitch to enter for a chance to compete. The top 30 competitors will be selected based on video submissions. Selected competitors will be revealed at the competition and called to the stage to present their pitch in a pinch. A panel of judges will score the presentations and select a winner. Awards will be presented during a cocktail reception immediately following the competition in Chesapeake A.

Video submissions are due by March 13th at 11:59pm to wm.symposium@gmail.com

Competition Criteria:
1. Competitor must be an accepted presenter at the 14th annual Graduate Research Symposium
2. Pitches should be academic or professional in nature
3. Pitch must not exceed 90 seconds.
4. Notes, Posters and PowerPoints are NOT permitted. However, the use of small, easily transportable props is allowed.
5. Presentations should be suitable for a diverse audience comprised of students, faculty, and community members
6. All video submissions should be posted to YouTube, with a link to the video emailed to wm.symposium@gmail.com.
   Subject of the email must be “Pitches in a Pinch: Submission.”

For additional information
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Privacy Statement: Video submissions will not be used for any other purpose without consent of the author.