



ASCE Texas

STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

APRIL • 15-17 • 2021

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
HOSTED BY ASCE STUDENT CHAPTER AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

2021 TEXAS-MEXICO STUDENT CONFERENCE

March 12, 2021

Dear ASCE Student Chapter Member of the Texas-Mexico Student Conference:

This is your 2021 Texas-Mexico Student Conference Mailer III, the last of three packets to be sent to each of the participating schools. The Texas-Mexico student conference is part of the larger Texas Student Symposium. Since we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and we are all experiencing a variety of learning situations as well as safety, social distancing, gathering, and travel restrictions through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), federal, state, local government, and university policies, we wanted to let you know about our plans for the 2021 Texas-Mexico Student Conference. Due to all of the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we are planning a virtual conference. We have decided that Zoom, Attendify, and CareerEco will be used to host the conference.

Please read carefully through this packet and forward copies to the appropriate chairpersons in your Chapter. Do not delete this mailer. The information that is given here may not be repeated in subsequent mailers. Enclosed you will find the following information:

- Virtual conference platform information
- Conference detail
- Preliminary schedule
- Competition list and deadlines
- Registration information (Regular registration deadline is March 17th)
- Competition rules

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at the e-mail address: texmexsymposium@gmail.com. All questions and answers concerning the events, rules, etc. will be posted on our web site: <https://www.texasce.org/our-programs/student-symposium/>. We will do everything possible to answer your questions in a timely manner, but please be patient – we are learning as we go and this is definitely a unique year.

We look forward to your participation in the Texas-Mexico Student Conference and to an engaging conference.

Sincerely,

Megan Westhoff
President, ASCE Student Chapter
University of Texas at Austin

Sabika Bharmal
Chair, 2021 Texas-Mexico Student Conference



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Virtual Conference Platforms

- **Attendify:** to serve as the home base for all event information
 - Students will be able to access the event on Attendify the week of March 15 – 19. Once the app is live, you will receive an email from ASCE Texas Section inviting you to create a profile for the event. You will need to make sure to use the same email address that was provided in your registration. (There will be an app version and a web version through which the conference can be accessed)
- **Zoom:** to host the competitions, professional development sessions, keynotes, and socials (students will need to have zoom downloaded)
 - Links to the competitions, continuing education sessions and socials can be found directly in the Attendify app. You can go to the “Schedule” tab and click the session you want to join to find the link.
- **CareerFairPlus:** to host the career fair
 - Students will be able to access the event on Career Fair Plus starting on April 1st. You will receive a direct email invitation to join the platform. Once you get that email, you will need to create a profile for the career fair and add your details (major, disciplines, degrees, resume, etc.).
 - Some key features for students are the ability to search companies via filters, "favorite" employers, and view the various meeting schedules that employers have and reserve 1-on-1 meetings or attend group meetings.

*A newsletter with more information will come out closer to the symposium.

***Safety and COVID-19 Protocols:** To mitigate participants' risk of exposure to COVID-19, participants in the 2021 Texas – Mexico Student Conference are not required to assemble to participate in conference activities and events. Participants who choose to meet in-person for purposes related to participation in the student conference do so voluntarily and at their own risk. All participants who conduct any in-person activities in connection with this conference will be responsible for complying with their university campus protocols on COVID-19 and for following best practices including but not limited to restricting the size of gatherings, social distancing, and use of masks.



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Virtual Platform Etiquette

1. Mute shall be the default. If your university continually becomes unmuted, your team runs the risk of being disqualified for violating the rules of the competition.
2. Please use the raise hand button before speaking. A judge will be monitoring all meetings and we will call on people just as if we were in person.
3. You may use the chat box to ask questions during the captain's meeting, student business meeting, or any other meeting where the host specifically tells you it is acceptable. You **may not** use the chat box while someone is presenting.
4. There will be a waiting room for all rooms where a competition presentation is occurring. Much like the closed door we use for in-person events, you will only be allowed to enter the zoom room between presentations.
5. Your names on Zoom should include the acronym for your school. For example: ASCE - FirstName LastName. The list of acronyms is provided in a table.

Official School Name	Approved Acronym
Angelo State University	ASU
Universidad Autónoma Del Estado De México	UAEM
University of Houston Downtown	UHD
University of Houston	UH
Universidad La Salle Victoria	ULSV
Lamar University	LMR
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México	UNAM
Tarleton State University	TSU
Tecnológico de Monterrey	TDM
Texas A&M University	TAMU
Texas A&M University - Kingsville	TAMUK
University of Texas at Arlington	UTA
University of Texas as Austin	UTX
University of Texas at El Paso	UTEP
University of Texas at Tyler	UTT
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley	UTRGV
Texas Tech University	TTU
West Texas A&M University	WTAMU



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Virtual Platform Etiquette (Continued)

6. When you are presenting, your camera **must** be turned on. The requirement is to ensure the rule of a "live oral presentation" is adhered to by all participants.
7. Zoom does allow users to turn off their "self-view" so that you can see others but not your own camera view. We are not used to looking at ourselves during in-person meetings and you might find that seeing yourself on Zoom meetings can be distracting. To turn off your self-view:
 - a. Right-click your video to display the menu, then choose Hide Myself.
 - b. To restore - right-click any visible user's display to show the menu. Choose Show Myself.
8. Please ensure you are in a noise free, well-lit room during the symposium.
9. Due to the virtual nature of the conference, it is vital that you be on time to your presentations. It is recommended that you be in the virtual presentation room when the team before you is presenting.

Captain's Meeting

The Captain's Meeting will be **required for any team competing in any event at this year's symposium**. During this meeting, you are expected to follow the Zoom Etiquette posted in this mailer. I will be taking roll call for all registered schools and teams. If you have a question, concern, or general comment you want addressed at the Captain's Meeting, please email texmexjudge@gmail.com ahead of the meeting so I can adequately provide an answer. Questions will also be taken during the meeting in adherence with the Zoom Etiquette listed above. As in years past, no questions regarding interpretation of rules will be answered. Similarly, no questions asked once the meeting has ended will be answered in an effort to be fair to participants. **Please note that only captains present at the Captain's Meeting will be allowed to discuss deductions where applicable and sign off on deduction cards.** Additionally, please only attend the Captain's Meeting if you are a captain of a register competition team.



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Mixer, Student Business Meeting, and Banquet Information

The Mixer will be held on zoom on Friday April 15th at 6 pm. This will be an opportunity for students and professionals to network. Details will be released closer to the event and the zoom link will be posted on Attendify.

The student business meeting is an opportunity for students to give suggestions and feedback regarding the symposium. To help facilitate the conversations and set the agenda please fill out the following form with any topics that you would like to discuss. This will allow the meeting to stay organized while still letting the students control the conversation. The meeting minutes from last years meeting are also attached to this email for review.

<https://tinyurl.com/StudentBusinessMtg>

The Banquet will be a live event through zoom. To keep the spirit of the banquet and make it a more interactive experience captains are asked to be ready to turn their cameras on. Because winners will not be announced beforehand, all captains are asked to be ready in professional or school spirit attire. Please also ensure you background is appropriate as all participants will be viewing the banquet.



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Preliminary Schedule

Time	Thursday (April 15th)
5:00 - 6:00	Captain's Meeting
6:00 - 7:00	President's Reception

Time	Friday (April 16th)		
8:00 - 9:00	Professional Development	Career Fair	Technical Paper Competition
9:00 - 10:00			
10:00 - 11:00			
11:00 - 12:00	Keynote Speaker		
12:00 - 1:00			
1:00 - 2:00	Professional Development	Career Fair	Mystery Design Competition
2:00 - 3:00			
3:00 - 4:00	R John Craig Legacy Presentations (Concrete Canoe Competition)		
4:00 - 5:00			
5:00 - 6:00	Break		
6:00 - 7:00			
7:00 - 8:00	Mixer		

Time	Saturday (April 17th)		
8:00 - 9:00	Concrete Canoe Competition	Professional Development	Sustainable Solutions Competition
9:00 - 10:00			
10:00 - 11:00			
11:00 - 12:00	Keynote Speaker		
12:00 - 1:00			
1:00 - 2:00	Surveying Competition	Professional Development	Blue Sky Innovation Competition
2:00 - 3:00			
3:00 - 4:00	Break		
4:00 - 5:00	Student Business Meeting		
5:00 - 6:00			
6:00 - 7:00			
7:00 - 8:00	Awards Ceremony		



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Final Competition List:

- Concrete Canoe
- Blue Sky Innovation
- Sustainable Solutions
- UESI Surveying Competition
- Technical Paper Competition
- Concrete Frisbee
- Concrete Bowling
- Mystery Design

*Please note: Participating in the Technical Paper Competition is a requirement to advance to society-wide finals in any competition where a society - wide event occurs. Please take careful note that a presentation consisting of reading the report to the judges, or similar level of effort, does not count as a good faith effort and will be treated as though no submission was made. This competition is mandated by the Texas Section and has two separate parts - a paper and a presentation. Those two elements shall be treated as separately prepared items about the same topic.

Competition Deadlines:

Competition	Due Date	Submittal Process
Blue Sky/Innovation: Written Proposal	5pm CT, March 17th, 2021	See Rules
Blue Sky/Innovation: Poster	5pm CT, March 17th, 2021	See Rules
Survey: Topographic Mapping	5pm CT, March 17th, 2021	Submittal Link
Sustainable Solutions: Envision Checklist & Documentation	5pm CT, March 17th, 2021	
Sustainable Solutions: Technical Summary	5pm CT, March 17th, 2021	
Technical Paper: Report	5pm CT, March 17th, 2022	
Concrete Frisbee: Mix Design	12am CT, April 12th, 2021	
Concrete Frisbee: Poster	12am CT, April 12th, 2021	
Concrete Frisbee: Technical Report	12am CT, April 12th, 2021	
Concrete Bowling: Mix Design	12am CT, April 12th, 2021	
Concrete Bowling: Poster	12am CT, April 12th, 2021	
Concrete Bowling: Technical Report	12am CT, April 12th, 2021	



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Registration Information

All registration will be completed through the ASCE Texas Section website: <https://www.texasce.org/our-programs/student-symposium/>

All individuals and team participants must complete an individual registration. Also, each team must register and list the names of all team members and specify in what events listed previously they will be participating.

Payments may be made by credit card during online registration or by check, made out to "ASCE Texas Section" and may be mailed to:

ATTN: Student Symposium
ASCE Texas Section
1524 S IH-35 Ste 180
Austin, TX 78704

Registration Cost:

- Student Registration: \$25 (**Deadline: March 17th**)
- Late Student Registration: \$30 (Deadline: April 9th)

*After April 9th please reach out to the ASCE Texas Section

Registration Includes:

- Conference T-shirt
- Professional/student mixer
- Keynote speaker and awards ceremony
- Career Fair
- Professional development sessions

*We will do our best to accommodate everyone, but we cannot guarantee a giveaway bag for any late registrations.

*All refund requests for cancellations must be provided in writing to the Section Office on or before April 12, 2021. After the cancellation deadline, no refunds will be provided.

*If paying by check, payment must be received by the Texas Section on or before April 12th

* Please send any team changes to office@texasce.org before the event



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Eligibility Requirements for Society-wide Competitions

The following qualifications are required of all ASCE Student Chapters in order to participate in an ASCE-sponsored Society-wide Competition.

- 1) Be in good standing with ASCE:
 - a) Have paid their Annual Dues, as received by ASCE, prior to the start of the Student Conference;
 - b) Have submitted their student chapter full Annual Report in time to be graded (reports submitted on or before February 1st to meet this qualification), and have received a minimum score of 40 points out of a possible 100. **Student Chapters that submit an EZ annual reporting form do not qualify;** and
 - c) Act appropriately as representatives of ASCE and the civil engineering profession, all competition and conference participants are expected to and must act professionally and courteously. The use of alcohol, marijuana, or other controlled substance is strictly prohibited.

Note: Invitations to Conference and Society-wide Competitions are a privilege, not a right. Failure to act appropriately can result in letters of reprimand, mandatory behavior management plans, and loss of invitations to further competition for individual institutions and/or entire conferences.

- 2) Attend and participate in their assigned Student Conference as shown through their school's:
 - a) Good faith participation in the Student Conference Business Meeting (at least one (1) student representative present at the **start** of the Business Meeting);
 - b) Good faith participation in the Student Conference Paper Competition, including submission and presentation by at least one (1) member of the ASCE Student Chapter. Note that any papers/presentations created for any other competition **do not count** as an entry into the Student Conference Paper Competition; and
 - c) Meeting any additional requirements of Student Conference participation set by the Student Conference at the previous year's business meeting or in their written and approved by-laws, standing rules, or constitution.



2021 TEXAS-MEXICO STUDENT CONFERENCE Competition Rules

Society wide rules for the Concrete Canoe Competition:

<https://www.asce.org/concrete-canoe-rules-regulations/>

Society wide rules for the Blue Sky Innovation Competition:

https://www.asce.org/uploadedFiles/Membership_and_Communities/Student_Chapters/Content_Pieces/2021-ASCE-Blue-Sky-Innovation-Contest-Rules.pdf

Society wide rules for the Sustainable Solutions Competition:

https://www.asce.org/uploadedFiles/Membership_and_Communities/Student_Chapters/Content_Pieces/2021-ASCE-Sustainable-Solutions-Competition-Rules.pdf

Society wide rules for the UESI Surveying Competition:

https://www.asce.org/uploadedFiles/Membership_and_Communities/Student_Chapters/Content_Pieces/2021-ASCE-UESI-Surveying-Competition-Rules.pdf

Regional rules for the Technical Paper Competition:

<https://www.texasce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Annual-Student-Technical-Paper-Presentation-Competition-Rules.pdf>

Regional rules for the Concrete Frisbee Competition:

<https://www.texasce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2021-Concrete-Frisbee-Rules.pdf>

Regional rules for the rules of the Concrete Bowling Competition:

<https://www.texasce.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2021-Concrete-Bowling-Rules.pdf>

Mystery Design Competition information:

The Mystery Design rules will be released the day of the competition. The competition will be an engineering design challenge that will need little to no preparation.

