General Tips for Posters

Presenting a poster at the ACHA Annual Meeting is a great way to convey your research or project to college health professionals from across the country!

The posters will once again be reviewed by poster judges and four awards will be presented: Emerging Practices in College Health, Advancing Health Equity, Research Advances in College Health, and Student Voices in College Health.

The following will be taken into consideration by the poster judges:

- contribution to new knowledge or best practices in the field of college health
- utilization of evidence-based practices, theory, and sound methodology where appropriate
- clearly stated evaluation and/or conclusions and implications
- professional quality/attractiveness

Your poster will be assigned a number (P1, P2, etc.). Once you locate the poster board with your number, affix your poster to that bulletin board. Bulletin boards are 4 feet high by 8 feet wide. ACHA will provide push pins and envelopes to hold business cards or handouts. There will be three cards attached to your bulletin board:

- A double-sided card to indicate whether the work of the poster was done primarily by students or professionals.
- A double-sided card to indicate whether the content of your poster is best described as Research or Practice/Programmatic.
- A card listing the date and time of poster dismantling, where you will indicate whether you will be dismantling and removing your poster prior to the deadline or if you would like your poster thrown away.
General Tips:

• In most cases, the size of your poster will be determined by the poster template you use (but may not exceed 4 feet high by 8 feet wide). Keep in mind that you don’t need to fill the entire bulletin board.

• Ideally, your poster should be self-explanatory so that you don’t have to explain the basics of your poster to each viewer.

• It helps the viewer if you can indicate (by numbers, letters, or arrows) a preferred sequence that might be followed in studying your material.

• Try to keep everything simple. Preferably, captions should be brief and labels few but clear.

• Limiting your word count will allow attendees to fully read your poster. (They have 30 minutes between sessions, and they will want to read as many posters as possible during this time.) If your poster is too text-heavy, most likely attendees will not have the time or inclination to read through the entire content.

• QR codes may be included on posters and handouts if the code does not lead to a website or materials promoting or marketing a company or product.

• Make your poster visually attractive, while also being easy to read. Use color, graphics, and white space to break up your text. From about 10 feet away, attendees should be able to read your poster title. From 3-4 feet away, they should be able to read all of the information and graphics.

• If you are not a student, you might want to enlist a student to help – students often create posters for class assignments. Faculty on your campus may also have templates available that they use for class projects. There are also many online resources, offering additional tips and templates.

Photos shown in this document were posters presented at previous ACHA Annual Meetings.