

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
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Title of Paper	Engaging Students in Engineering Communication with Competition and Prizes: Presentation Idol for Engineering Students at the British Columbia Institute of Technology

We all know that communication skills are crucial to a successful engineering career. Research shows this, and our alumni tell us the skills they learned in their Communication classes are among the most important in their “toolkit” when they join the workforce. But how can we engage students in building these skills?

In this session, you’ll hear from organizers of a presentation competition for engineering students at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) and one of the prize-winning students.

Last spring, to help students build their communication skills, and to promote awareness of the importance of these skills, three Communication instructors who teach students in engineering disciplines organized the British Columbia Institute of Technology’s first annual Presentation Idol for Engineering Students – an interdisciplinary engineering presentation competition with over \$2,000 in prizes. The competition’s success has led to widespread support for it in the Institute, and the second annual competition is currently being planned.

This PNW-ASEE presentation will introduce Presentation Idol at the British Columbia Institute of Technology. It will include a description of

- our motivation for organizing the event,
- how the event is structured,
- where our funding comes from
- how we’re measuring success and the benefits of the competition
- the research project and paper we’ve recently begun along with our preliminary results.

In addition, an engineering student who competed in Presentation Idol last year and won prizes in both Judges Choice and Audience Choice categories will give her prize-winning presentation and be available to answer questions about her experience in the competition.

We hope to find out if other institutions have similar competitions, and if not, inspire them to start one. Perhaps one day PNW-ASEE can host the winning students from various institutions at a Pacific Northwest Presentation Idol competition.