

**INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO HOST:  
2018 NASPAA - BATTEN STUDENT SIMULATION COMPETITION  
Deadline to Apply: August 4, 2017**

NASPAA is seeking enthusiastic schools to serve as host sites and simulation competition partners! Join with us to create a meaningful, educational, and fun day for students from around the world as they gather in a one-day immersive computer simulation that challenges them to solve a global problem.

**Background:** In February 2017, nearly 400 students from 120 NASPAA schools participated and competed in a one-day simulation devoted to the topic of food security at eight host sites across the globe. The topic coincided with the worldwide effort to address UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 (end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture, by 2030). This was the third year NASPAA hosted the simulation – and the first year of its five-year partnership with the University of Virginia’s Frank Batten School of Leadership Public Policy (UVA Batten) to develop the simulation. Over the course of three years, over 95% of the participants reported they would like to participate in the competition another year and/or would recommend their friends to participate.

Like 2017, UVA Batten’s Center for Leadership Simulation and Gaming will bring technical expertise and develop the simulation module. NASPAA will oversee the logistics of running the competition as well as devising the educational components of the simulation to ensure that the content resonates with public policy and administration students. Building on this excitement, we are pleased to announce the fourth annual student competition and invite all NASPAA schools to participate!

Next year, there will be two weekends set aside for the 2018 NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation (the weekend of **Saturday, February 24, 2018** and the weekend of **Saturday, March 3, 2018**). **Each host site has the flexibility to choose the weekend that works best suits them. Please identify the weekend that best works for your university.**

The topic chosen for next year’s competition is **pandemic crisis management**. The simulation will focus on the roles MPA/MPP graduates would have to play if there was a pandemic outbreak of a deadly infectious disease. Students would utilize their backgrounds in finance, organization governance, policy analysis, government administration and resource management to identify solutions and preventive mentions in case a pandemic outbreak occurred. While MPH students are taught the epidemiological and scientific methods to disease eradication and prevention, MPA/MPP students would work within the confines of governing bodies to reassess the rules and institutions that govern health policy and practice at the subnational, national, regional, and global levels. In this simulation, MPA/MPP students would take the lead roles in identifying solutions and potential strategies to mitigate the potential devastating impacts of a pandemic. NASPAA believes it is imperative that MPA/MPP students’ knowledge on “global health security” is furthered so they are prepared to act during a public health crisis.

This is an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their abilities and network with other students in the field, while bringing awareness to excellence in public service education. Host schools will receive much promotion and recognition leading up to the competition. The competition will occur at over 10 regional schools across the United States and globally. We are seeking host schools in the following regions:

- Northeast USA
- Mid-Atlantic/National Capital Region USA
- Southeast/South Central USA
- Midwest USA
- Southwest USA
- West USA
- Latin America
- Europe
- Middle East
- Asia

There are two primary goals for this competition: to encourage student learning and engagement with the policy process, and to promote public service education with prospective students, employers, and the public. The competition is a one-day simulation exercise built on a problem that students could face in their careers as MPA/MPP professionals. Students arrive as individual representatives of schools and are matched with people from other schools to form teams. Students will then use the simulation model to solve the problem and present their solution to peers and judges. Teams will not have coaches and faculty members are expected not to travel with students to the competition site; there is no work required of faculty members to prepare their students for the competition.

**Host Site Responsibility:** Each host school plays a key role in ensuring competition success. While most of planning and coordination is handled by NASPAA staff, there are some aspects of planning that must be completed by the host school. In addition to donating resources, the host school should identify student volunteers to assist with the event and donate a limited amount of time from three key people for the competition: the logistical leader, the technology leader, and a judge. Most time commitment required will occur in late February/early March.

- **Logistical Leader:** This person will be the main point of contact for NASPAA staff and will oversee all site logistical needs. This includes reserving space, ordering lunch, supplying student volunteers, securing a senior school leader to make opening remarks, providing information on the local area/hotel, etc. It is strongly recommended that the logistical leader have a technical person to assist with Wi-Fi access and technical issues during the competition. This role requires approximately two hours/month of time between September and January and approximately 10 hours of time in late February/early March. **Please identify the site leader by name in the proposal response.**

- **Technical Leader:** This person will be the on-site technical expert during the competition and asked to go through one or more online training sessions in the simulation model. This person is likely to be a faculty member or someone interested in learning about simulations as a teaching tool. The simulation will be available on a web browser and experience/knowledge of modelling software is not required. This person will help facilitate student learning during the competition. This role requires up to two hours of virtual training in addition to being on-site for the competition. The technical leader is encouraged to participate in the judge's training as well.
- **Judge:** There will be at least three on-site judges during the competition and NASPAA requests the assistance of the host school in securing at least one judge. This person could be a faculty member, alumnus/alumna with experience, local practitioner, etc., and would be asked jointly by the host and NASPAA. The judge will go through online simulation training prior to the competition and will help facilitate student learning during the competition. Like the logistical leader, this person does not need knowledge of modelling software, but it would be helpful for this person to be familiar with systems thinking. The judge should not have unbiased views on global pandemics as he/she will need to judge a wide range of student approaches. This role requires up to four hours of training in addition to being present on-site for the competition day.

Host sites will be also expected to donate the following resources in-kind on competition day:

- Space for up to 30 student participants in one large main room (for announcements and final presentations); 3-4 small breakout rooms (classrooms) or 1-2 large breakout rooms (classrooms) that would accommodate several teams of five students for teamwork and judging;
- Host site deans and Phi Alpha Alpha advisors will be asked to nominate up to three outstanding students to participate in the competition (whose travel expenses will be covered mostly by institutions sending the students to the host site);
- Spare laptops for students (however, students will be required to bring their own laptops to the competition);
- Free and reliable Wi-Fi access for all students and judges;
- White board or large notepad paper for student teams to use if desired;
- Laptop/projector/screen setup for concurrent viewing by participants and judges
- Coffee and light breakfast for students, judges, and volunteers on the day of the competition;
- Lunch for students, judges, and volunteers on the day of the competition;
- Free or reduced parking for judges and student participants;
- Access to printer to print out extra materials in the days prior to competition (NASPAA will electronically transmit or mail most materials in the weeks prior to competition);
- Videography service for up to two hours at the end of the competition to film final presentations; this could range from a campus videographer to a stationary camera on a tripod setup by a student or staff member;
- All day photography services; this could be a hired photographer or a staff member who takes photos;

- Dinner arrangements for judges and site leaders the night prior to competition;
- An informal meet and greet arrangement for students the night prior to the competition, which could be at a local pub or in one of the classrooms—and could be at the students' or host's expense, depending on host preference.

To keep costs low for student participants, student home schools are asked to cover their transportation costs. For some schools that is not possible and NASPAA has a small fund to assist with travel costs. **In your proposal please state if you are willing to contribute to this fund and how much (\$0-5,000) can be contributed. Contributing to the travel fund is not a requirement of hosting.**

Since the competition will occur during the winter months, there is the possibility of on-campus classes being cancelled and/or the university being closed. Holding the competition on a different day is not possible due to planned travel, so each host school will be asked to prepare an Emergency Contingency Plan outlining how the competition could occur in the event of winter weather, or in the event of considering cancellation, who the key personnel would be in consulting with NASPAA staff in making that call.

**Host School Benefits:** Serving as a host site provides a wide variety of benefits for the school. In addition to great external visibility, schools have the opportunity to advance pedagogy by building simulation expertise within their faculty. Specifically, the school will receive:

- Opportunity to facilitate student learning and participate in a fun and exciting competition;
- Opportunity to set up exhibition teams comprised of undergraduate students;
- Prominent feature in all competition material (web, email, print, social media) as a host school;
- Verbal recognition as host school at 2017 NASPAA Annual Conference to NASPAA peers;
- Pre-event recognition in regional press release announcing the competition to local media;
- Post-event recognition in regional news releases and on competition website homepage;
- Post-event recognition in a national press release for school that hosts the national winning team;
- Opportunity to build faculty expertise in simulation pedagogy;
- Opportunity to learn in depth how to use sophisticated simulation approaches in curriculum;
- Opportunity to utilize the pandemics simulation in a classroom setting;
- Possibility to be involved in co-authoring a paper on use of simulations as a learning tool;
- Opportunity to engage alumni as judge, volunteer, or contributor to competition;
- Opportunity to showcase school/campus to students and judges from the region.

**NASPAA and Batten Responsibilities:** While site specific planning must be completed by the host school, NASPAA and Batten will design and coordinate all other aspects of the competition. This includes:

- Creating the content of the simulation and competition;
- Designing the educational and background materials to supplement the simulation;
- Securing the remaining two or three judges (recommendations welcome) for each site and conduct training all judges;
- Creating a Day-Of plan for the event to guide the day-of execution, including a PowerPoint and a script;
- Shipping all student materials to each site for distribution at registration;
- Electronically distributing simulation manuals to students just prior to competition day;
- Recruiting, registering, and communicating with student participants;
- Facilitating communications between host site leaders and students during the weeks prior to competition day;
- Promoting the competition to students and NASPAA schools;
- Awarding travel stipends to students, as necessary;
- Awarding prize internships and trophies to winning team members;
- Providing virtual technical simulation support during the competition.

**Student Responsibilities:** Students who participate in the competition will be asked to arrive onsite by 7:45 am on day of the competition. They will arrange their own transportation to the site and some students may opt to secure a hotel room prior to or after the competition. The host school may choose to secure a room block at a local hotel and assist with transportation if desired. Students will bring a laptop with them to use and run the simulation model. They will be asked to work in teams, communicate with the judges during the day, and make a final presentation. Students will be photographed or recorded during the day and may opt-out during registration. Students also have the option to attend the informal networking event that will be organized during the night preceding the competition.

**Responses:** If you are interested in being a host school, please submit a short response to this proposal. At minimum, the proposal must include:

- Brief overview of institution and city;
- Description and/or electronic photo of space where the event would be held;
- Name and brief paragraph regarding qualifications of person to serve as the logistical leader;
- Name and brief qualifications of person to serve as the technical leader;
- Recommendations for a potential judge familiar with the topic pandemics and global health;
- Agreement to donate in-kind the above list of resources for the weekend of February 24 or March 3, 2018;
- Outline of the Emergency Contingency Plan if in a region prone to winter weather;
- It is recommended that the Dean supplies a letter of support for hosting the competition;
- It is recommended that the Dean identifies up to three outstanding students to participate in the competition.

**Responses should be complete, but it is not necessary for them to be lengthy. Responses should be emailed as a single PDF by August 4th at 11:59 pm to Supriya Golas, Simulation Project Manager, [golas@naspaa.org](mailto:golas@naspaa.org)**

**Review Criteria:** The following criteria will be given priority consideration when selecting a host site:

- Locations which are easily accessible via airport or car and are in proximity to some other NASPAA schools;
- Sites that are relatively inexpensive to travel to;
- Sites that are well equipped in terms of space and technology to support the competition;
- Access to a videographer who can film the entire competition and film final student presentations;
- Ability to contribute to student travel fund and help fund trips of selected students;
- Strength of Emergency Contingency Plan in regions prone to winter weather in February;
- Identification in the proposal of the person who will serve as Logistical and Simulation leaders;
- Interest in the topic of global pandemics.

This competition has been an educationally fulfilling and exciting experience for all participants in the past few years and our site hosts are critical to this success. If you are considering applying, please do not hesitate to reach out to us with questions and concerns. All communication should be directed to Supriya Golas, Simulation Project Manager, [golas@naspaa.org](mailto:golas@naspaa.org).

**2018 Tentative Student Competition Timeline:**

August 4, 2017	Deadline to apply as host school
August 7, 2017	Sites are notified of proposal status
August 31, 2017	Confirmed sites should submit signed MOU with NASPAA
October 11 – 13, 2017	Announcement of host schools at NASPAA conference
October 27, 2017	Site deadline to nominate up to three student participants
November 1, 2017	Judges are recruited and secured
November 3, 2017	Student registration opens
December 8, 2017	Student registration closes
December 15, 2017	Deadline to inform students of acceptance
January 3 – February 18, 2018	Judge and Site Leader training
February 10 – Feb 28, 2018	Host sites receive Day-Of Plan electronically
February 10 – Feb 28, 2018	Host sites receive student and judge materials
February 23, 2018 or March 2	Dinner for on-site staff and judges
February 23, 2018 or March 2	Informal networking event for students
February 24, 2018 or March 3	Student Competition