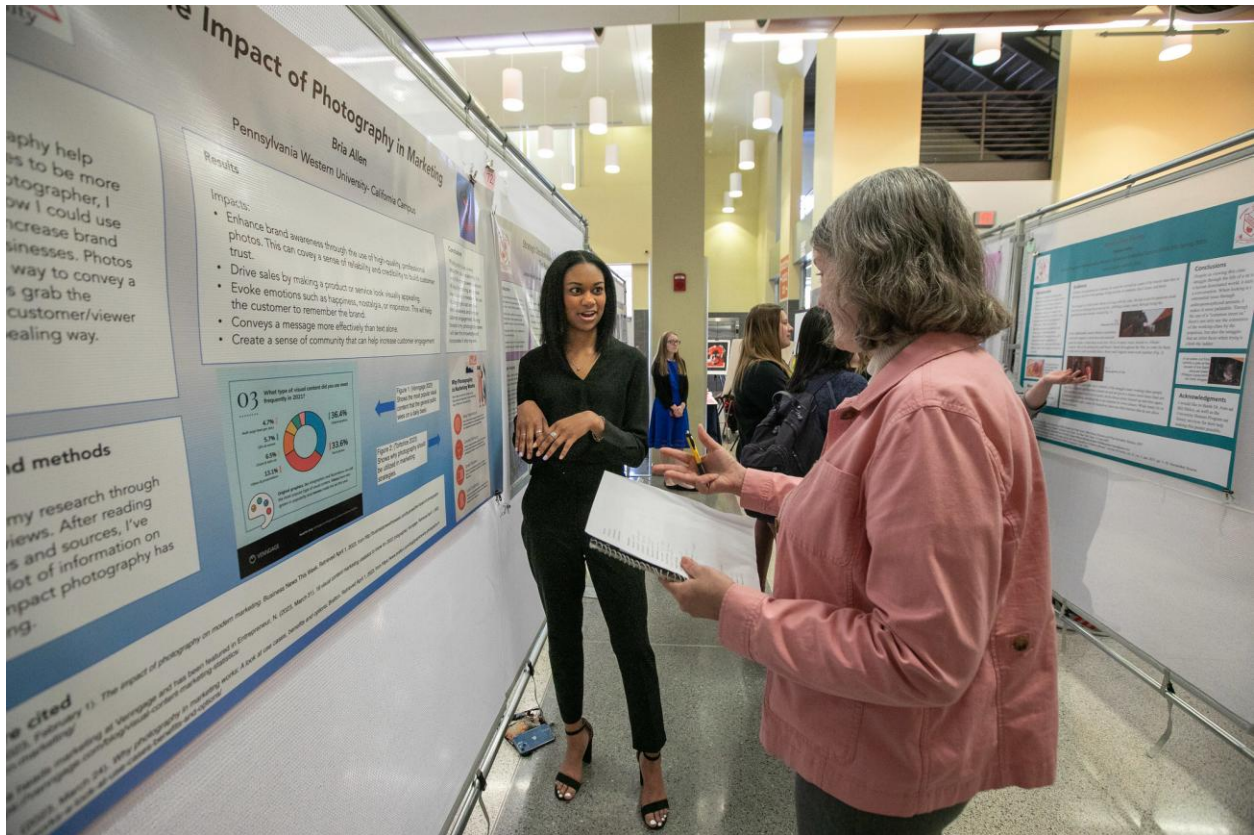


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## STUDENTS INVITED TO SUBMIT ABSTRACTS FOR PENNWEST RESEARCH EVENTS



March 03, 2026

PennWest University is inviting students from across disciplines to submit abstracts and proposals to present their research, creative projects and scholarly work during Strike a Spark and the Celebrations of Scholarship, a series of spring events that highlight experiential learning and academic achievement across PennWest.

With submission deadlines approaching in March and early April, the events offer students an opportunity to share their work, gain presentation experience and celebrate the outcomes of a year of academic exploration.

### **Strike a Spark abstract deadline: March 20**

PennWest California's signature undergraduate research and creative activity conference, Strike a Spark, will take place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 15 in the Convocation Center.

This year's theme, "The Power of Experience," reflects the hands-on nature of student scholarship at PennWest — as well as the guidance and expertise of faculty mentors who support students throughout the research and creative process.

Students are encouraged to submit abstracts by March 20, 2026, to present original research, creative works, performances and scholarly projects. Presentation formats may include posters, oral presentations and creative displays, welcoming participation from students in the sciences, arts, humanities, social sciences and professional programs.

Strike a Spark will also feature a keynote panel and a performance integrated into the keynote session, with additional details to be announced.

More information and submission guidelines are available at: <https://www.pennwest.edu/about/events/strike-a-spark/index.php>

### **Celebrations of Scholarship: Clarion and Edinboro deadlines in April**

PennWest will also host Celebrations of Scholarship events on the Clarion and Edinboro campuses later in April, providing additional opportunities for students at those campuses to share their academic and creative work.

- Clarion campus  
1-3:30 p.m. April 22  
Carlson Library (Level 1)  
Abstract submission deadline: April 7
- Edinboro campus  
2-4 p.m. April 29  
Baron-Forness Library (first floor)  
Abstract submission deadline: April 14

The Celebration of Scholarship continues to expand to include participation from students in the arts, humanities and social sciences, emphasizing that scholarship can take many forms beyond traditional research posters.

"This is about making sure students from all disciplines see themselves reflected in these events," said Anthony J. McMullen, university library director. "We want to celebrate the outcomes of academic work in ways that are inclusive, engaging and accessible."

### **Supporting student research and creativity**

This year, nine PennWest students received internal funding to support their research and creative projects, providing resources such as specialized materials, equipment and supplies. Those projects will be shared during Strike a Spark and the Celebrations of Scholarship, offering students the chance to present work shaped through hands-on learning and mentorship.

For students, the spring scholarship events mark a culminating moment in the academic year — an opportunity not only to present work, but to celebrate progress, curiosity and creative effort.

"What better way is there to celebrate student success than by sharing the outcomes of their academic work with the campus community?" McMullen said.