

TECHXPO
MONTANA TECH

Preparation Seminar

April 9, 2026

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Lance Energy Chair

MONTANA
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Know Your Purpose

- Showcase a design
- Demonstrate knowledge
- Sell !!



Use Techxpo to Hone Presentation Skills

Preparation is the Key

Know your material, audience, and forum

Prepare

Practice

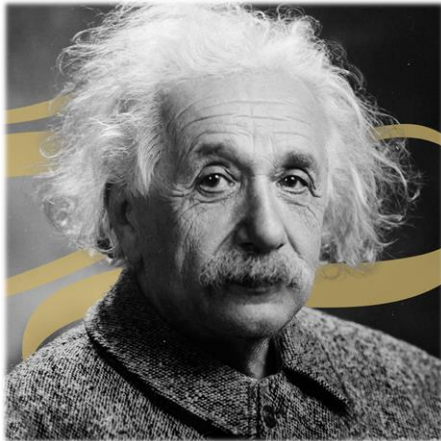
Target Your Audience



Tech Students



Judges



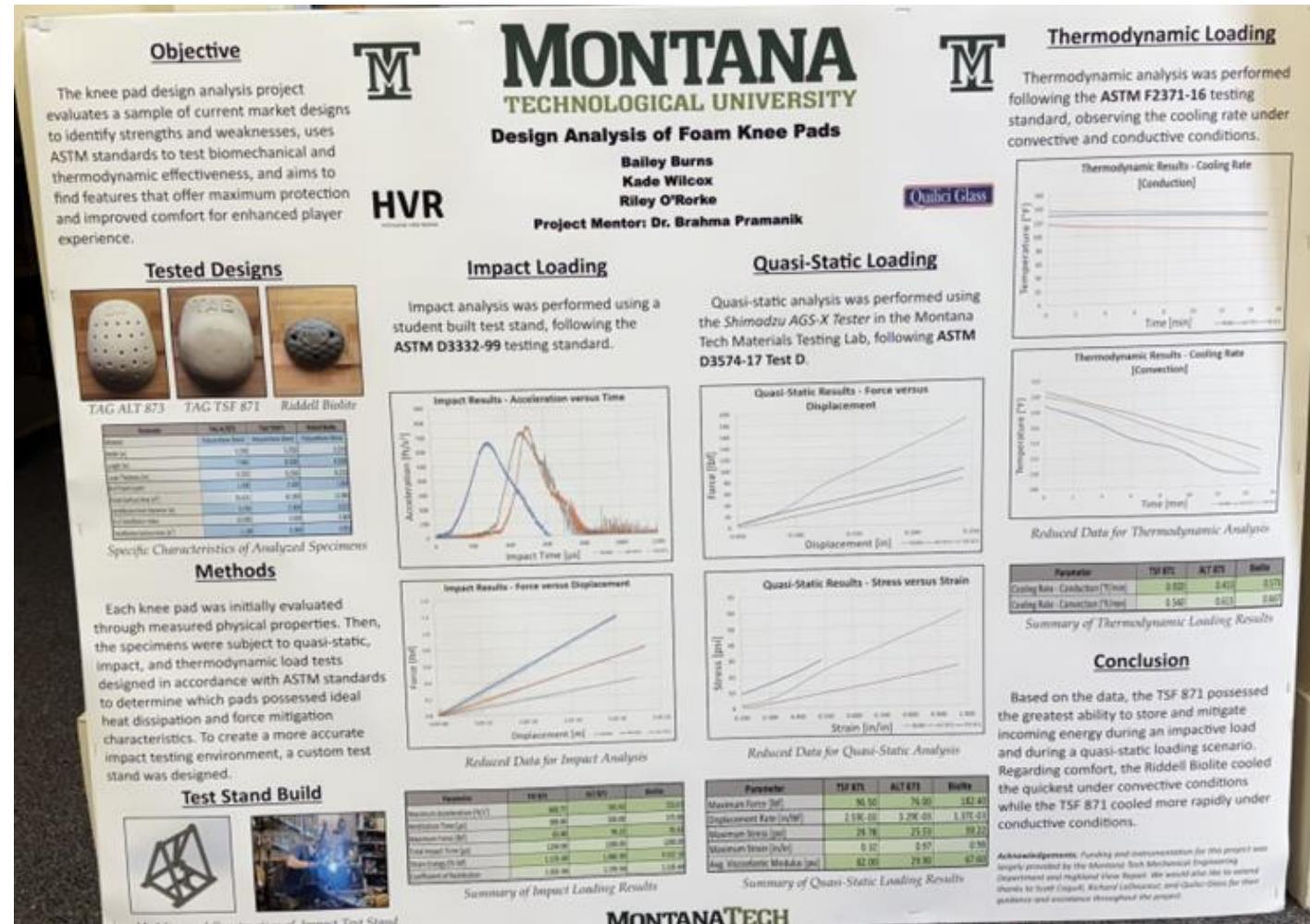
Faculty



Public

Make Your Poster Inviting and Informative

- Keep it clean
- Use simple figures, photos, charts
- Use large font
- Use white background



1-Minute Why

[4 = Compelling introduction notes broader impact and/or unique value proposition, and addresses “Why” a lay-person or investor should care]

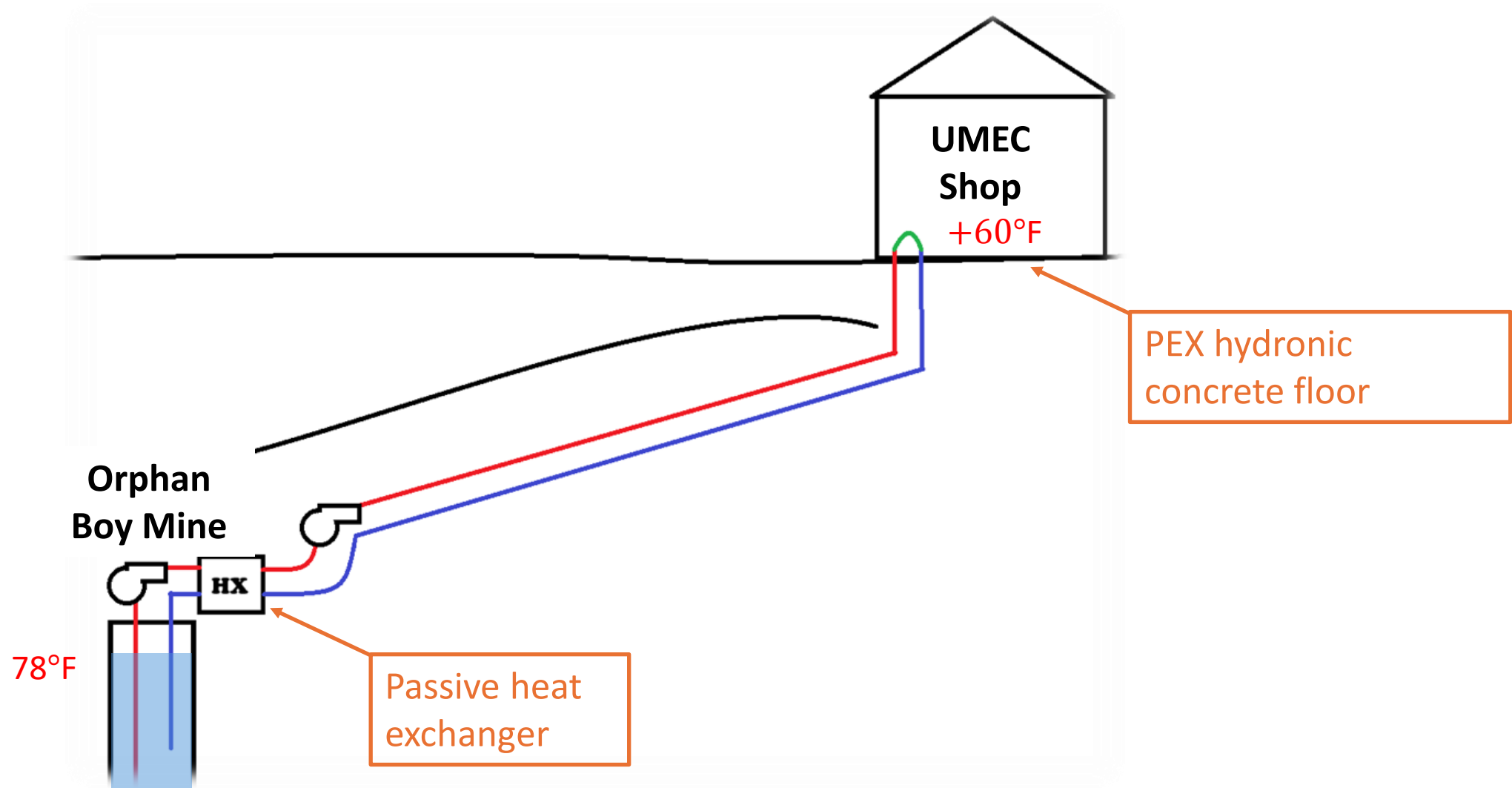
Explain the “Why” in One Minute

Selling is Teaching

1. Introduce yourself
2. Define the problem
3. Explain the solution
4. Provide proof
5. Explain value / impact



Tap Butte Mine Water for Reliable Economical Heat



Technical/Scientific

[4 = procedures clear, rigorous
analysis, exemplary decision
justification, proof of concept]

Score Technical and Scientific Points

- Use the scientific method
 - Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion
- Demonstrate use of 1st principles
 - e.g, $F = MA$
 - Reference Engineering Standards
- Justify decisions w/ science & engineering
 - Validation by analysis and/or test

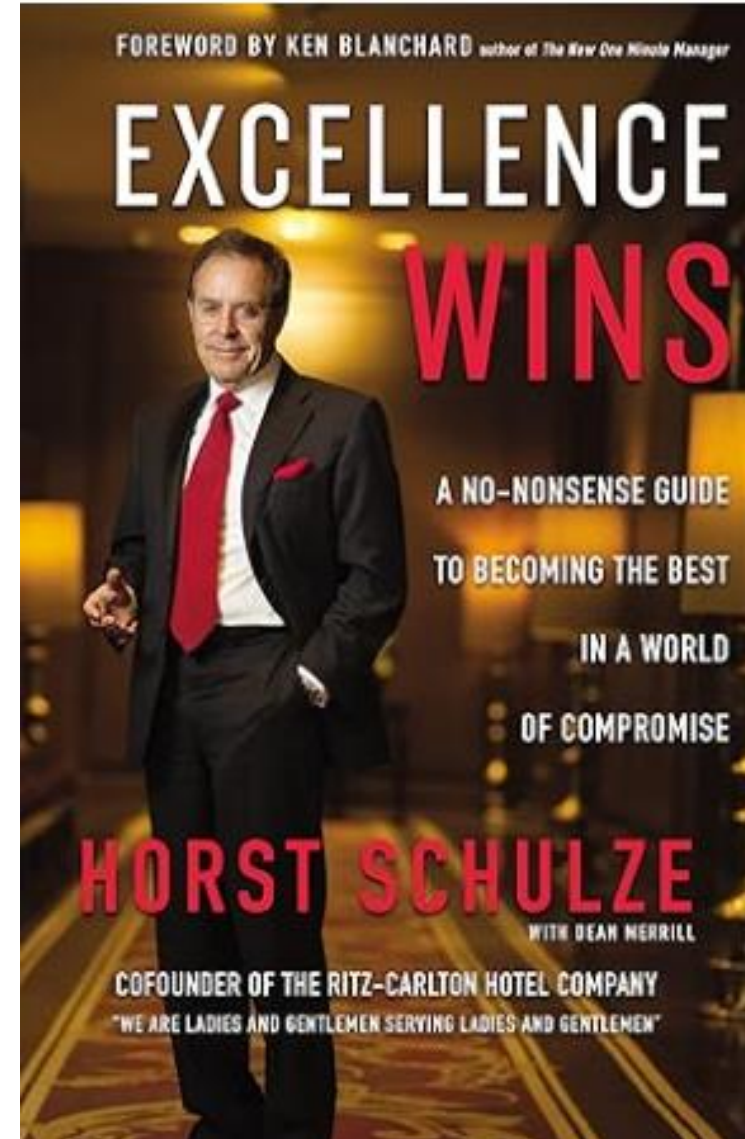


Presentation

[4 = well organized, professional display; fluid discussion; thorough response to questions; deep understanding of materials]

Organize, Prepare, and Practice Your Presentation

- OK to be nervous
- Be yourself. Be professional.
- Take pride in your quality work
- Be friendly. Smile!
- Memorize your One Minute Why
- Use the poster as a prop
- Practice, practice, practice



Value

[4 = presents compelling and creative solution with validation, conclusions supported by results]

Sell the Value

- Show a compelling and/or creative solution
 - Improves performance
 - Reduces cost
 - Provides a new capability
- Validate your results
 - Show economic, performance, or capability advantages
 - Back up conclusions with engineering proof: analysis and/or test



Have Fun Designing Your Poster!

Try a lot of ideas – quickly!

Be prepared to throw most ideas away

Collaborate with others

Get feedback

Sample Header Text: 60 pt

Use this type of page to explain a process or your results. 44 pt

Three predesigned text boxes and figure templates are provided but copy and paste as needed. Header naming should include standard scientific/engineering methods including Background, Methods, Results, Discussion, Conclusion. Please replace all the template wording and sample figures (pictures on the right-hand side, graph representations) with your own. The sample figures and graph representations are provided to show what good figure sizing should be, if you have smaller or larger images it may affect the quality of the poster. Rearrange the predesigned text boxes and your figures/images but keep in mind that the boxes and figure sizes in the template were designed for good visualization.

Sample Header Text: 60 pt

Use this type of page to explain a process or your results. 44 pt

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Donec sit amet dui vestibulum orci fringilla volutpat. Nunc vel volutpat urna. Nam egestas sem condimentum, congue arcu vel, suscipit tellus. Fusce ac mauris vulputate, lacinia sem at, aliquam risus. Morbi sagittis euismod rutrum.

Proin condimentum faucibus purus, convallis consectetur metus fringilla et. Sed vehicula, nunc ac laoreet sollicitudin, turpis leo auctor erat, eget ornare enim lorem id sapien. Etiam ac iaculis metus. Praesent dignissim metus ut dapibus cursus.

Sample Header Text: 60 pt

Use this type of page to explain a process or your results. 44 pt

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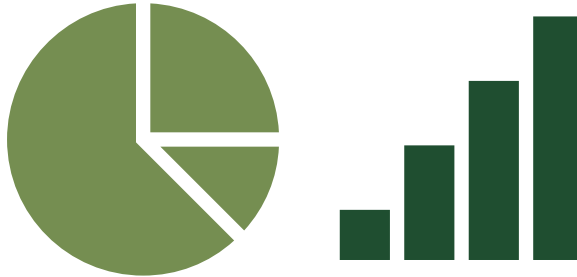
Proin condimentum faucibus purus, convallis consectetur metus fringilla et. Sed vehicula, nunc ac laoreet sollicitudin, turpis leo auctor erat, eget ornare enim lorem id sapien. Etiam ac iaculis metus. Praesent dignissim metus ut dapibus cursus.

MONTANA

TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

PROJECT TITLE

Team Members: First Last, First Last, First Last



Graphical Abstract:

This should be your big idea and should capture in a figure and some wording why someone should want to fund/pay for the work that you performed. You will have 1 minute during judging to "sell" your idea and so you want this area to capture as much information as possible about why what you did matters.



Acknowledgements

You should acknowledge anyone not listed as a poster author or advisor that helped you during the course of your project



Use this
PowerPoint
Template

Save as
PDF to
Print

Send Your Information to Donna

Email dconrad@mtech.edu

1. Name of person responsible for poster
2. Names of all in your group
3. Project Title
4. Department

Print Your Poster

- Use Techxpo Powerpoint poster template
<https://www.mtech.edu/techxpo/resources-posters/index.html>
- 36" x 48"
- White background
- Save as PDF
- Include your **last name** in the **file name**
- Email or bring flash drive to Donna Conrad **between April 6 – April 17**
 - dconrad@mtech.edu
 - x4262
 - MG117
- Posters must be printed by **April 21**

Schedule of Events

Set Up: Wednesday, April 22 3:30 – 6:00 pm

Thursday, April 23, 2026

13th Annual Techxpo Schedule

Time	Event	Location
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Orientation luncheon for Judges	HPER Lounge
12:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Student Check-in	HPER Lobby
1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	Opening Remarks by Chancellor Johnny MacLean	HPER
1:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Judging of all Student Projects	HPER
1:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Campus & Community Viewing of Student Booths & Posters	HPER
4:30 – 5:30 p.m.	Awards Ceremony/Reception	HPER