Recommendations for Future Semesters

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Based off the feedback from judges on the day of the conference, and how the project went, here is some feedback that we have determined would help improve the app next year:

-Usability and the user interface should be prioritized: Some judges believed that the interface was difficult to use

-The save feature was not actually used on conference day, and may not be as helpful as intended in the future

-The admin panel functionality should be improved

-Radio buttons on scoreform.php and scorereview.php would have been helpful rather than a drop-down menu, according to many judges on conference day

-The judge id system should not be used, and instead judges should create accounts that are validated using the database

Three main directions that could be taken next year:

1. Live application that the judges use to score posters in real time on conference day
2. A post-discussion application for the judges to submit only final scores
3. A post-event application for one person to submit every score after the event

The approach that should be taken will primarily be determined by Dr. Murray and Dr. Gould’s input, as they are the professors who are responsible for coordinating the conference. We worked closely with Dr. Murray throughout the whole project. Bill Staffen from U-Tech was very helpful to the project. He helped us with the more technical aspects and helped us properly connect and publish our website on the Calu server. Be sure to give Bill a couple days’ notice to put the website on the actual Calu Webpage, rather than the test domain. The test domain is <http://students.calu.edu/calupa/mac7537/>, with the actual domain being, https://www.calu.edu/inside/strike-a-spark/app/. Something that we learned once we launched the app, was that it is possible to inherit some of the elements from the calu.edu/strikeaspark domain. It may be easier to inherit some elements from there, rather than completely designing the page from scratch. Talk to Bill Staffen for more information on how to do this.