**BCB Summer Research Experience: Guidelines for designing your poster**

General guidelines for posters can be found on the WPI Academic Technology Center site. <https://www.wpi.edu/Academics/ATC/Media/poster.html> . A suggested template for the BCB SRE poster is posted on our Canvas site. Make your poster attractive, with enticing figures. You will be at your poster to explain it and answer questions, so try to keep text fairly minimal. Less text in a larger font is usually better, and bullet points are often helpful. Below are brief descriptions of what belongs in each section.

**Title**

Your title should be in large font, and go across the whole poster. WPI and BCB SRE logos are provided on our template, along with a recommended format for author names.

**Abstract**

The Abstract is a summary of the work that you did. For a short poster abstract, this means one sentence of Background, one sentence of Design / Methodology, one sentence of Results, and one sentence of Discussion/Conclusions! You can see that this may be difficult to write, but it really forces you to sort out the most important points of your work. It is easiest to write last, after your project is mostly complete.

**Introduction / Background**

This section serves to motivate the viewer as to why they should be interested in your project, and gives them essential background to understand it. The Introduction should also state the project goals /hypotheses. Pictures and/or diagrams are often helpful here.

**Design / Methods**

The Design section should include an overview of your approach. It does not need to include detail on how the program works. A flow diagram may be a useful way to explain your program’s structure. You may want to have a picture or two of what the screen looks like, for an app or simulation. If your project included laboratory experiments, you need to include information on how these were performed.

**Results**

Ideally, results should state something in the title (large font) about what you found. ‘Exposing simulated bees to pesticide resulted in reduced floral diversity over time’ is more informative than ‘Results’. You want your important results to be in large font so that viewers can easily and quickly come away from your poster with the important points that you discovered in your project. Include enough information in the text that the viewer can understand the experiment you performed. Include figures of your results, with a title under each.

**Conclusions and Future Work**

Summarize what your project accomplished. Don’t forget that designing your program is an important accomplishment, even if not everything is working perfectly! Be careful not to conclude anything you haven’t really shown. You can always say ‘Preliminary results suggest…’ if you have an interesting result that is not conclusively shown yet. Bullet points are often useful here. Add a point or two of Future Work that you would like to see done by the next student.

**Acknowledgements**

You should acknowledge anyone who helped you, but is not an author on the poster, such as other people in your research group. Your advisor will tell you if you need to acknowledge a funding agency such as the National Science Foundation.