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## George and Marion Plossl Doctoral Dissertation Competition

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### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

The George and Marion Plossl Research Fellowship honors the best doctoral dissertation on an important integrated resource management subject.

Named in honor of George and Marion Plossl, leading volunteers and long-time supporters of the APICS Educational and Research Foundation, this competition emphasizes practical, usable research. George Plossl, CFPIM, a leading consultant in production and operations management, is one of the judges for the competition.

The E&R Foundation will grant awards of \$2,500 for eligible dissertations dealing with integrated resource management topics that improve operations and streamline organizational function by removing interdepartmental barriers.

#### Special Interest Areas

- **Integrated Enterprise Management**  
Dissertations in this area explore the keys to successful cross-functional management issues. Topics include case studies on the interplay and interpersonal skills required for effective team interaction, case studies on implementing of strategic business decisions, plans for measurement systems consistent with the enterprise's mission and vision, and successful streamlining of corporations.
- **Customers and Products**  
Dissertations on subjects in this area focus on recognizing customer needs in designing and developing products and providing customers with ongoing product support. The area also includes marketing, sales, field service, and new product development in the customer-service loop.
- **Logistics**  
Dissertations in this area link logistics to production and inventory control, purchasing, distribution, and the supply chain.
- **Manufacturing Processes**  
The topics in this area explore facilities management, process design, development, and selection and implementation of new manufacturing technologies.
- **Support Functions**  
This area's topics include information systems, human resources, total quality management, and accounting and finance— particularly performance measures other than traditional cost accounting.

#### Plossl Competition Guidelines

Entrants must be candidates for a doctorate in production and operations management (or a closely related field) in a fully accredited university. The dissertation should have been approved by the primary thesis adviser, and not more than 50 percent completed at the time of submission.

Proposals must include a statement of the subject to be researched, relevant theory addressing the subject, hypotheses to be tested, methodology to be employed, analysis to be performed on the data collected, and an indicative bibliography. Attention should be given in the proposal to the probable managerial relevance of the expected results. The successful candidate will clearly show the ability to apply research to the needs of the practitioner.

Proposals must be no longer than 20 double-spaced, typewritten pages, including tables, exhibits, and references. The first page should be a one-page, self-contained summary of the proposal.

The title page should contain the student's and the primary adviser's names and a statement that the thesis is no more than 50 percent completed.

Both the doctoral candidate and the primary dissertation adviser should submit one separate copy of an abbreviated curriculum vitae. Vitae should be submitted separately, not stapled to dissertation.

### **Submissions**

Three copies of the proposal for the annual competition must be submitted to the Director of the E&R Foundation, APICS Educational and Research Foundation, Inc., 5301 Shawnee Road, Alexandria, VA 22312-2317, and must be postmarked no later than August 31. Proposals post-marked after August 31 will not be considered for that year's competition.

### **Dissertation Evaluation**

Dissertation topics will be evaluated on the following: (1) fit of research with E&R Foundation priorities; (2) importance and potential contribution of the subject to business and academia; (3) quality of conceptual development; (4) feasibility and appropriateness of methodology; (5) application to the practitioner; and (6) originality. Evaluators include George Plossl, practitioners, and members of the E&R Foundation's Board of Directors.

The winner will be notified in early October.

### **Prizes and Honors**

The winner will receive an unrestricted cash award of \$2,500. The winner may be invited to present the results of his or her completed dissertation to members of APICS at a seminar or conference, and to submit an article based on the research for the E&R Foundation Research Paper Series, the Production and Inventory Management Journal, or the Journal of Operations Management.

### **Dissertations and inquiries should be sent to**

Director  
APICS Educational and Research Foundation, Inc.  
5301 Shawnee Road  
Alexandria, VA 22312-2317

FAX: (703) 354-8794 • E-mail: [foundation@apics-hq.org](mailto:foundation@apics-hq.org).

**For more information**, call the E&R Foundation director at (800) 444-APICS (2742) or (703) 354-8851, ext. 2202.



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& Research  
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