



Nuclear Engineering

TO: Nuclear and Radiological Engineering Programs

FROM: Dr. Travis W. Knight
Professor and Chair
Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
University of South Carolina
Chairman of the ANS Student Design Competition

DATE: October 7, 2025

RE: 2026 ANS Student Design Competition

Greetings:

This memorandum is the announcement for the 2026 ANS Student Design Competition. The competition is open in that each university has the freedom to define its own design project. Student design reports will be evaluated and ranked by judges from industry and government based on submission of a single design report authored by the participants. Graduate and undergraduate teams are evaluated and ranked in the same competition. A maximum of two graduate teams will be selected as finalists. A total of four finalist teams will make oral presentations to judges in a special invited session at the Winter ANS Conference providing helpful, constructive feedback to student teams.

In addition to the final design report, each entry must also submit electronically to the Student Design Competition Session (sponsored by ETWDD) a summary (less than four pages) to ANS for possible publication in the *Transactions* of the Winter Conference. These summaries must be submitted to ANS as invited summaries **by the published deadline but not later than June 19, 2026** according to instructions for electronic submission that are available on the ANS website (<https://www.ans.org/pubs/transactions/>). Thus, the four finalists who make presentations at the Winter Conference will have their summaries published in the *Transactions* of the conference. The final design reports must be submitted by **June 19, 2026**.

Your capstone design course, which most ABET accredited programs have, can be the basis for your undergraduate students to enter the competition. Similarly, many programs also have a graduate design course, which can be the basis for graduate students to enter the competition. The Intent to Participate and Guidelines Form and the Judges' Evaluation Form are online at <https://www.ans.org/honors/award-studentdesign/>. Please encourage your design-oriented faculty and students, both graduate and undergraduate, to participate in the competition.