

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce some new and exciting changes that will occur at WEFTEC in 2010. Talks presented in two special sessions of the Research Symposium at WEFTEC on the first Monday and Tuesday morning of the conference (October 4 and 5 for the 2010 conference in New Orleans) will be co-sponsored by AEESP, following similar arrangements in place with ACS and other conference venues. Several additional major changes are being implemented by WEF in response to recommendations from the academic community.

These changes are:

- 1- There is no requirement for extended abstracts or papers. Only short abstracts (up to 1 page) are needed for talks.
- 2- There is no requirement to give WEF the copyright to material in your abstract. Abstracts can be included in the proceedings through a simple licensing agreement.
- 3- Oral presentations will be shorter, allowing for a greater numbers of talks and speakers.
- 4- One or more keynote speakers can be included as part of each session with a longer speaking slot.
- 5- The time between submission of abstracts and the conference date is now reduced (from ~ 11 months to only 7 months) to allow for inclusion of cutting edge topics and unpublished material.

We are currently soliciting TOPICS for the special research sessions at WEFTEC. The organizers of the selected session topics will be in charge of inviting talks, reviewing submitted abstracts, and organizing the sessions in coordination with the WEFTEC Research Symposium committee.

Please submit TOPICS to Charles Bott (cbott@hrsd.com), Chair of the Research Symposium Subcommittee, by December 14, 2009, and include the following information:

- Session title
- Short description of the topic (~100 words)
- Organizers (typically 1-3 people) and,
- Contact information for suggested keynote/invited speakers

These new AEESP sponsored sessions within the WEFTEC Research Symposium represent a first step in a long list of new and exciting changes that we anticipate will occur in the next few years. We hope these changes will reinvigorate academic participation in WEF and WEFTEC.

Best regards,

WEF Academic Committee and Research Symposium Joint Subcommittee

Charles Bott	Paul Causey
Bruce Logan	Nancy Love
George Martin	Susan Merther
Sudhir Murthy	Paige Novak
Eileen O'Neill	Chris Schmit