The Southern California Association of Governments, (SCAG), is excited to announce a special opportunity for college and university students in the region.

On May 2-3, SCAG’s annual Regional Conference & General Assembly will feature a special Student Showcase session featuring sustainability planning posters and GIS story maps selected through a competitive application process. This will be an opportunity for students to share their work with more than 1,000 elected officials, planners, and regional leaders.

Students whose projects are chosen will be designated as SCAG Conference Fellows, receiving complimentary event registration, hotel accommodation and admission to an exclusive “Future Leaders in Regional Planning” professional development seminar during the conference.

One project from each category will be selected by a panel of judges as “Best in Show”. Conference attendees will also vote on their favorite poster and story map for an Audience Award. In all, 4 prizes totaling $6,000 will be awarded.

Abstracts due April 1 at 10:00 a.m.
Final projects due April 22 at 10:00 a.m.
SCAG is requesting abstracts for student-led projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to sustainability-related planning issues on a local or regional scale. Eligible submittals include any applied projects or research.

**Evaluation Criteria**

**Sustainability**
Promotes sustainable practices such as emission reductions, land use and transportation integration, natural resource conservation, active transportation, energy efficiency, and housing.

**Innovation**
Introduces a new concept and/or challenges or improves upon current planning processes.

**Transferability**
Strategies/concepts that can be applied to different locations or programs.

**Feasibility**
Project has realistic potential to be implemented.

**Presentation**
Excellence in writing, visual content and overall organization.

**Submission Requirements**

Abstract submissions are due on April 1, 2019. Students are instructed to submit abstracts of their projects, and if selected, SCAG will request a poster to be submitted. If the poster has already been completed, please send a reduced-size pdf.

The following are required:

- **Project summary** (500 words max)
- **1-5 images** (photos, graphs, renderings, etc.) that visually describe the project. Please submit in JPEG, PNG or PDF format
- **Contact information:**
  - Primary contact person
  - Names and contact information for other students involved in the project
  - Name and contact information for Faculty Advisor
  - Name of college or university

Final posters are due on April 22. SCAG will provide required poster dimensions to those selected. SCAG may be able to assist with printing and mounting.

Please email submissions to India Brookover at brookover@scag.ca.gov.

**Sustainability Planning Poster Contest Rules**

1. This contest is open to college students who are currently enrolled in a university, community college, or graduate program within the SCAG region or who have graduated within the previous 12 months. All work must be completed by students, not faculty or university staff.

2. Submissions may be as an individual or group, and there is no limit to the number of entries per entrant.

3. The poster must focus on a topic relevant to the SCAG region.

4. Any documents or images must be used with the respective permission of the author(s) and must be properly attributed.

5. Entries will be judged on the previously described criteria: sustainability, innovation, transferability, feasibility and quality of presentation.
SCAG recognizes the effectiveness of simple yet powerful ways to inform, engage and inspire people through data and map-driven storytelling.

With this in mind, SCAG is proud to invite student participants to conceptualize, create, and submit story maps using SCAG’s open data. This is a meaningful way to tell a story or provide insight, to showcase plans and projects, to engage supporters and stakeholders, to illustrate the possibilities of data, and to highlight the usefulness of open data at the regional level.

What Are Esri Story Maps?

Esri Story Maps are web applications that let authors combine maps with narrative text, striking images and multimedia, including video. The applications are designed to be attractive and usable by anyone, which makes them great for education and outreach, either to the general public or a specific audience. Additional information can be found here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/faq/#question1

Why Should I Do This?

In addition to allowing students to have access to a robust set of regional data not normally available to the public, this provides an opportunity to partner with the largest metropolitan planning organization in the nation and share data insights to elected officials and decision-makers in Southern California. It is a chance to also help shape policy.

How Do I Get Started?

Attend a joint training on ArcGIS Online and Esri Story Maps, to be hosted at SCAG’s main headquarters at 900 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700, Los Angeles, CA 90017 on Friday, March 15, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Attendance is encouraged but not required. SCAG will also provide a webinar of the training for those who cannot attend in person. Entrainants may also review meeting materials that will be posted online following the training to participate. Register online for the training at: https://scag.wufoo.com/forms/ze6opzq0w0y1k4/

Obtaining a Story Maps Account

Create an account at https://developers.arcgis.com/sign-up or contact your university ArcGIS licenseholder to create one and start mapping.

Accessing SCAG’s Data

1. Entrants must utilize data from SCAG’s GIS Open Data Portal, http://gisdata-scag.opendata.arcgis.com/ and can also integrate other relevant data from outside sources as appropriate.
2. Users can download datasets from SCAG’s portal and work with them through any Esri platform (e.g. ArcPro, ArcMap), for eventual integration into an Esri Story Map.
3. Entrants can also opt to directly load the data into an ArcGIS Online Web Map. SCAG’s layers for use in this competition can be located by searching for layers generated by “scagggisadmin”.

Use SCAG’s open data to address local and regional issues
Submitting Your Story Map

1. When your Story Map has been completed, applicants must generate a written user guide that details background information on the application, demonstrates with engaging text and screenshots the application’s comprehensive functionality, and lists all data sources or media elements included in the story map (with relevant documentation on the authorship of all elements and their year generated)

   - **List of required elements in the user guide:**
     - URL of Story Map
     - Names of entrants
     - Entrants’ colleges or universities
     - Background information on Story Map (3-5 sentences)
     - List of data sources with authorship and year generated

2. Please submit abstracts for your story map by April 1, 2019 to jonesm@scag.ca.gov.

3. Final story map entries must be emailed individually to Mike Jones at jonesm@scag.ca.gov by 10:00 a.m. PDT on April 22, 2019 with the URL of the story map and its corresponding user guide.

Story Map Competition Rules

1. This contest is open to college students who are currently enrolled in a university, community college, or graduate program within the SCAG region taking classes towards a degree objective or who have graduated within the previous 12 months. Current high school students attending school in the SCAG region are also eligible to submit. All work must be completed by students, not faculty or university staff.

2. Submissions may be as an individual or group, and there is no limit to the number of entries per entrant.

3. The project must use SCAG data for all or part of the Story Map. Administrative Boundaries may be used freely, but do not count as using one SCAG dataset.

4. Any documents, images or videos must be used within the Story Map only with the permission of the respective author and must be properly attributed.

5. Entries will be judged on their innovative use of SCAG data and Esri Story Maps, relevancy to Southern California’s regional economy, transportation system, or housing supply, and potential value to local stakeholders.

For more information on the poster competition
Contact India Brookover at brookover@scag.ca.gov

For more information on the story maps
Contact Mike Jones at jonesm@scag.ca.gov

Founded in 1965, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) is the nation’s largest Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Council of Governments (COG), encompassing six counties, 191 cities and 19.1 million residents. In addition to conducting research and developing long-range transportation plans, SCAG convenes local governments and agencies to address regional transportation, land use and other issues of mutual concern.