



2019 Rowan PRSSA National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition Package

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Letter to PRSSA Chapter Presidents

April 22, 2019

Dear PRSSA Chapter President,

The Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) prides itself on philanthropic activities that promote the well-being of our communities. To continue this tradition, the Anthony J. Fulginiti Chapter of PRSSA (AJF-PRSSA) at Rowan University invites you to participate in our National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition.

Cystic fibrosis is a progressive, genetic disease that attacks young people, contributing to lung infections and limiting the ability to breathe. This competition asks PRSSA chapters to use their public relations skills while helping to enhance and extend life for those living with cystic fibrosis.

Through this competition, PRSSA chapters will create a campaign and host a day-long event in November 2019 focused on cystic fibrosis awareness and research. The top four chapters will receive a cash prize at the National PRSSA Conference in the fall of 2020.

Awareness of, and support for, cystic fibrosis research is deeply meaning to Rowan's AJF-PRSSA chapter. We held our first event for CF in 2013 after the passing in 2012 of Colette W. Bleistine, a former Rowan student and PRSSA leader. Each year, our chapter holds an event, "Dance Away Cystic Fibrosis" with entertainment and activities to help raise money and awareness in the Rowan community. Colette's parents formed the Colette W. Bleistine Paying It Forward Foundation, which has donated more than \$50,000 in past years to scholarships, students in need and cystic fibrosis research.

We encourage you to compete in the National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition. Together, we can make a difference. Just imagine the impact your chapter can have. If you plan to take part, let us know as soon as possible, and start planning this summer. Please contact rosanio@rowan.edu with any questions.

Sincerely,

Gloria Barone Rosanio, AJF-PRSSA Professional Advisor
Adjunct Professor
Rowan University
301 High St., Glassboro, N.J. 08028

PRSSA National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition Goals and Objectives

Competition Goal:

Raise national visibility for cystic fibrosis through PRSSA chapters across the country.

Competition Objectives:

- Increase awareness of cystic fibrosis and the struggles patients face.
- Promote strong public relations and leadership skills, and commitment to community service, among PRSSA chapters nationwide.
- Raise money for CF research with as many students as possible taking part in the competition.

2019 National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition Guidelines

***Please send all submissions digitally to rosanio@rowan.edu. This will allow us to evaluate and provide feedback promptly.

1. Chapters must conduct a daylong special event between November 1 and November 30, 2019. The target audience should include (but not be limited to) local community members, students, faculty and staff.
2. The campaign goal is to spread awareness of cystic fibrosis and its effects as well as fundraise for CF research.
3. Award packages must include:
 - A three-page (maximum) summary (typed, double-paced, one-inch margins)
 - Primary and secondary research
 - Summary of special event activities
 - Evidence of cystic fibrosis promotion
 - Campaign evaluation
 - Supplemental information: (15-page limit)
 - Invitations
 - News Releases
 - Advertising (i.e. Flyers, publicity)
 - Photographs
 - Media kit
 - Screenshots from social media promotions
 - Budget
 - Any other materials that provide value to your campaign
4. Please submit your package (18-page maximum) as a single PDF file by December 20, 2019 to rosanio@rowan.edu. You will receive a confirmation email within 48 hours of submission.
5. First, second, third place and honorable mention winners will receive recognition and awards at the prestigious 2020 PRSSA National Conference, the largest gathering of PRSSA chapters around the country.
6. Packages will be judged according to extent of influence, creativity, execution, publicity/promotion, research, professionalism, supporting materials.

Details and Deadlines at-a-Glance
PRSSA National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Campaign

- The Cystic Fibrosis national competition will take place in the fall semester of 2019.
- Registrations for PRSSA chapters who want to compete are due October 31, 2019.
- Chapters must hold their events or campaigns in November 2019 and must confirm their participation with Gloria Barone Rosanio: rosanio@rowan.edu.
- Completed competition packages must be submitted by December 20, 2019.
- PRSSA chapters must submit portfolios including all elements of research, planning, communication, and evaluation phases of their organ donation awareness campaigns. A panel of Rowan students, faculty, and professionals will evaluate the portfolios and select first, second, third and honorable mention recipients.

AJF-PRSSA’s Tips for Success

DO	DON'T
Plan ahead – begin this summer	Wait until the last minute
Ask questions	Send packages late
Proofread your package multiple times	Have numerous spelling/grammatical errors
Be creative. Make your event individual to your school, not cookie cutter.	Simply follow other PRSSA chapters
Have fun	Lose sight of the overall cause

National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition Judging Form

Extent of influence: 1-20 points

Creativity: 1-20 points

Execution: 1-15 points

Publicity/promotion: 1-15 points

Research: 1-10 points

Professionalism: 1-10 points

Supporting material: 1-10 points

National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition Entry Form

If you plan to enter the competition, return this sheet and entry fee of \$25 by October 31, 2019 to:

AJF-PRSSA
Attention: Gloria Barone Rosanio
c/o Department of Public Relations & Advertising
Rowan University
301 High Street
Glassboro, NJ 08028

And submit the form electronically to rosanio@rowan.edu

Include:

Name of PRSSA Chapter: _____
University/ College: _____
Mailing Address: _____
Department Telephone Number: _____
Student Contact: _____
Student Contact's Email address: _____
Student Contact's Telephone Number _____
Advisor Contact: _____
Advisor Contact's Email Address: _____
Advisor Contact's Telephone Number: _____

Please make checks in the amount of \$25 payable to "AJF-PRSSA."

We also accept PayPal or Venmo.

Email rosanio@rowan.edu with questions and to notify us that you are providing payment and entering the competition.

Registration must be submitted by October 31, 2019

Completed package must be submitted by December 20, 2019

Facts about Cystic Fibrosis and Rowan's History of Support for CF

Cystic fibrosis, a rare genetic disorder, affects children in the United States. The majority of diagnoses occur before the age of two. National awareness helps to fund medical research for this incurable disease and empower those affected by it. Rowan's AJF-PRSSA chapter held its first event to support awareness of CF in 2013 after the passing of a Rowan student from the disease in 2012.

Each year, our chapter holds an event, "Dance Away Cystic Fibrosis." The event provides entertainment and activities to help raise money and awareness in the local community. Colette's parents formed the Colette W. Bleistine Paying It Forward Foundation, which has donated over \$50,000 in the past years to scholarships, students-in-need and cystic fibrosis research.

Founded in 1955, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation leads the world in awareness of the disease, research for the cure and financial support to make CF drugs widely available. The Foundation raises hundreds of millions of dollars for research and works to increase life expectancy in sufferers by decades.

Cystic Fibrosis Facts:

- More than 30,000 people in the U.S. currently live with the disease.
- Doctors diagnose about 1,000 new cases each year.
- The majority of people, about 75 percent, receive their diagnosis by age two.
- The complicated disease can produce a variety of symptoms, and no two cases are the same.
- In the year of the Foundation's creation, a CF patient could expect to live a median of ten years.
- In 1955, no treatment for CF existed.
- In 2018, a CF patient could expect to live an average of 37 years, with death most often occurring from lung complications.
- With increased research and awareness, gene therapy appears to be a promising treatment and possible cure for the future.
- New drugs and antibiotics help patients manage their symptoms and increase life expectancy.
- In 2010, the Foundation raised \$175 million - a goal thought to be impossible for a healthcare nonprofit.
- Although donations and research funds remain in the millions, public awareness of the disease and its sufferers remains quite low.

Additional information regarding cystic fibrosis can be found at <https://www.cff.org/>.

Cystic Fibrosis Event and Fundraising Ideas

We want your chapter to be as involved as possible in creating a special cystic fibrosis event while raising money for CF research. The following are a few ideas your chapter can run with, or that might spark another idea all your own. These fundraisers can be held in your campus gym facilities or outside on your campus, with entry or sponsorship fees that will benefit CF. These suggestions are not your only options. We encourage you to be creative and design a unique event. Some ideas:

- “Band Together Against CF” with a Battle of the Bands
- Dance-a-Thon
- Triath-a-Thon
- Jog-A-Thon
- Walk-a-Thon
- Wheel-a-Thon (take part by bikes, rollerskates, skateboards, scooters, anything on wheels)
- Rock-a-thon (rocking chairs)
- Volleyball or basketball tournament
- Karaoke, amateur talent show, or fashion show
- A Jeopardy-like game or trivia night

At the same time, you may want to contact local businesses to donate gift baskets and prize packs to be raffled off, including, for example:

- Food prizes/gift certificates from restaurants
- Gift certificates and merchandise from retail stores
- Haircuts or makeovers from local barbershops and beauty salons
- Free fitness sessions at the local gym
- Free car wash

Again, we want you to be creative and do what works for your chapter and community. Develop the best fundraiser for your campus and chapter and raise as much awareness and money as you can to support cystic fibrosis.

Example of Campus Media Coverage of Cystic Fibrosis Event at Rowan University

The Whit – Rowan University Student Newspaper

“Dance Away Cystic Fibrosis” teaches people about dancing and disease

By

Jesse Mounce

December 6, 2017



Left, right, back, right.

Students tried to mimic the dance instructor among tables covered in purple tablecloths and violet balloons anchored down by mason jars filled with lavender flowers.

Hosted in the Eynon Ballroom of the Chamberlain Student Center on Thursday night, Dance Away Cystic Fibrosis toted a purple color scheme. Purple occupies a special meaning for the event’s host, Rowan’s Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). Purple represents Cystic Fibrosis.

According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the disease is “a progressive, genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and limits the ability to breathe over time.” More than 70,000 people suffer from this disease worldwide.

This year’s Dance Away Cystic Fibrosis was the fourth annual event held in the honor of Colette Bleistine. Bleistine was a student at Rowan, where she was the vice president of Special Events for PRSSA. She died in 2012 after being placed on a double lung transplant waiting list in March of that year.

“We hold this in honor of her every year to raise money and to remember that she was someone who was here. She was a student. She was a part of our organization and she dedicated a lot of time to our work,” said Colleen Scott, senior public relations major and president of PRSSA.



From tables selling hot chocolate or raffle tickets to a Dine and Donate night at Chickie and Pete’s, PRSSA held four fundraisers over the last month leading up to Dance Away Cystic Fibrosis.

Melissa Livingstone, the Dance Away Cystic Fibrosis Chair for PRSSA, said she started planning the event over the summer. Once she knew more about Colette’s story, Livingstone spent the next three months developing the event and fundraisers that would help the club reach their goals. In addition to continuing to honor the legacy of Bleistine, PRSSA set a goal to donate \$500 to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Bleistine’s parents attended the event, as they have for the last three years. After they received flowers and a card, Colette’s mother, Nancee Bleistine spoke to the attendees about her daughter. She informed students about the Colette W. Bleistine Paying it Forward Foundation, which donates money to victims of catastrophic events and scholarships to students who have a passion for community service, just as their daughter did.

“She was very inspirational. People today still tell me about how when they are going through something they think about Colette and all that she endured, because she never complained,” Nancee Bleistine said. “In the midst of it, she still cared about people.”

After Nancee Bleistine’s speech, the dance instructor, Kelsey Martino of Kelstar Kardio, brought students back onto the dance floor to perform a zumba style exercise.

The gathering attracted 40 people, creating a personal and meaningful environment.

“This is my first time at this event, but I love the energy here. I can tell the people who organized it were very passionate about the cause,” said Mavish Khan, senior journalism major. “I love seeing students come together in honor of a Rowan student.”

As the night came to an end, the club called raffle tickets and five lucky winners were awarded with prizes. The students and club members finally found out if they broke their donation goal.

PRSSA shared Colette Bleistine’s story and personality during their fundraisers. As of Thursday night, they raised \$534 for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation—not accounting for the Chickie and Pete’s Dine and Donate.

“Two of her favorite quotes were ‘Life is too short to be anything but happy,’” Nancee Bleistine said. “And the other quote, which I think really suited her so well was, ‘Your problems are never bigger than your purpose.’”

For comments/questions about this story, email features@thewhitonline.com or tweet [@TheWhitOnline](https://twitter.com/TheWhitOnline).

**2019 Rowan PRSSA National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition
Contact Information**

We encourage you to compete in the National Cystic Fibrosis Awareness Competition. If you plan to take part, let us know as soon as possible, and start planning this summer. Please contact rosanio@rowan.edu with any questions.

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