The GEARED Program has been offered space during the 2017 DistribuTECH Conference to showcase student research in a poster session. Posters will be displayed in a high traffic area where conference attendees pass by frequently.

**Student Eligibility**
- Students must attend a Partner or Affiliate University of the GEARED program.
- Undergraduate and Graduate students may submit posters.
- Poster topics must be related to the GEARED Program. Acceptable poster topics include, but are not limited to:
  - Solar, Wind, and other Renewable Generations
  - Electricity Markets
  - Distribution Energy Resources and Microgrids
  - Power System Optimization and Control
  - Power System Modeling and Simulation
  - Transmission and Distribution Systems
  - Power System Protection
  - Power System Dynamics and Stability
  - Power System Security and Reliability
  - Smart Grid technology applications
  - Power Electronics Applications
  - Electric machines and drives
- Students must attend the DistribuTECH Conference for at least one day to display a poster.
  - Students, Faculty and others in the GEARED Program will be expected to spend time at the Poster Session during conference hours to ensure conference attendees are engaged and can have their questions answered. A sign-up will be made available prior to the conference.

**Poster Deadlines**
- **Tuesday, November 1, 5pm ET** – Confirm your intention to display a poster by emailing Mary Lawrence, mary@irecusa.org, with your Poster Title, Poster Author(s) and School Affiliations. Our current space allows for 32 posters. We will accept posters on a first come first serve basis up to 32. Posters beyond 32 will be accommodated based on our space availability.
- **Friday, November 18, 5pm ET** – Confirmations will be made no later than 11/18.
- **Monday, January 16, 5pm ET** – A draft poster must be submitted as a PDF document to Mary Lawrence, mary@irecusa.org.

**Poster Session Logistics**
- Posters must be one printed sheet, 34 inches by 48 inches. Printed collections of slides will not be allowed.
- Mounting Boards and push pins will be provided for display.
- Students must print their own poster and are responsible for getting the poster to the conference.
- **Student posters must be available for display from 10:00am on Tuesday, January 31 until 12:30pm on Thursday, February 2.**
  - Shipping information will be provided prior to the conference if student travel plans do not allow the poster to arrive by 10am on Tuesday, January 31.
  - Posters can be picked up between 12:30pm and 2:00pm on Thursday. Any posters not picked up by 2:00pm will be discarded.
- Students will be asked to create a “contact information card” and have copies of this card available with his/her poster. A template will be provided to students with their confirmation notice.
Poster Content and Design Guidelines

- Posters must include the GEARED Program logo somewhere on the poster. A jpeg version of the logo will be provided to students with their confirmation notice.
- Identify your poster near the top of the panel with the title of your presentation and all authors’ names and school affiliations. The title should be composed of CAPITAL letters at least one inch high.
- In general, poster layout and content is up to the Student, however, please read through the design elements below and keep these things in mind.
  - **Remember, this is a VISUAL presentation - try to explain your ideas in a visually appealing way.** The sequence of information on the poster should be logical and clear. An attendee who just walks by and reads your poster should have a clear idea of your presentation and the major points.
  - **Simplicity: Keep your poster simple and provide a clear "take-home" message.** Limit your presentation to essential data and include information to stimulate discussion; you can provide details in discussions. Most viewers will scan the display for its prominent features.
  - **Think about your target audience.** Although most of the participants will likely be technical folks, there will also be many non-technical attendees. Technical or non-technical, it is likely that most people will have less knowledge about your subject than you do. Keep it simple, but informative.
  - The poster should typically include the following:
    1. Introduction (background, statement of hypothesis, purpose/objectives)
    2. Methods (experimental design, techniques)
    3. Results (data summary, findings)
    4. Conclusions (interpretations, implications)
    5. Summary of results/findings.
  - Bullets work well to summarize key points or contributions of the study.
  - Spell out acronyms in their entirety the first time used, followed by the acronym in parenthesis.
  - Order: Consider the flow of your poster - generally from left to right and top to bottom. Organize the material to tell a logical, coherent story.
  - Color: Aesthetics are an important part of preparing a poster that will attract attention. The use of color will enhance poster readability (i.e., for contrast and to highlight important points) and attractiveness. Use muted colors that blend well, and do not overpower text or graphics. Use primary colors, and do not use shocking colors like pink or yellow.
  - Graphics & Pictures: IMPORTANT- Use figures (graphs, charts and illustrations with captions) as much as possible, making sure that they are legible. Pictures and PDF images need to be at least 300 DPI.
  - Fonts: The written text should be sufficiently large to allow easy reading from a distance of approximately five feet. Use large fonts for the title and sub-headers - at least 72-point font for the title, 36-point font for the sub-headers, and 18-point font for the text. Use simple fonts such as Times New Roman or Helvetica. Use only one type of font to avoid an unprofessional look. Avoid using too many style changes such as shadow, bold, italics, and underscoring.
  - Text: Use more white space around your work as light and empty space is more attractive to the eye. Avoid large, continuous blocks of text; use small blocks instead. Make sure the small blocks of text can stand-alone. It should still make sense if someone comes up to your poster and reads only a small portion of it. Use the minimum amount of text possible. Consider using right-justified text. Justified text might look nicer from a distance, but is more difficult to read. Remember that people will be standing and reading the text on the spot.