

Summary of Final Plenary Talk
ISSOTL/CUR – Pre-Conference Working Meeting
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The Carnegie Academy Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) Leadership Program was a three-year project in which colleges and universities across the globe worked as teams to address certain broad themes in higher or tertiary education. One of these teams, comprised of 10 U.S., Canadian, and U.K. institutions, as well as the Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) in the U.S., focused on undergraduate research – how we define, promote, support, and measure it. Teams convened one a year at the annual CUR meeting, and continued their work through teleconferences. One result of the CASTL-Undergraduate Research team’s work was an article by Nancy Hensel (CUR) and Mary Beckman (University of Notre Dame), “Making Explicit the Implicit: Defining Undergraduate Research,” in the Fall 2009 *CUR Quarterly* (v.XXIX (4), 40-44).

The CASTL project ended in 2009, and the CASTL-Undergraduate Research team presented their findings at the Carnegie Foundation and ISSOTL Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, U.S.A. in October 2009.

Because it was clear to the CASTL-Undergraduate Research team that the project was just the beginning of our work to understand undergraduate research – and because we really did enjoy each other’s company -- the representatives from the 10 institutions and CUR decided to form a special interest group within ISSOTL in order to continue the conversations and collegiality. We wanted to deepen our understanding of the concept, and especially, we wanted to reach out to colleagues on a broader international scale to learn about different systems of higher/tertiary education and how they define, promote, support, and measure “undergraduate research.” Thus, the Advancing Undergraduate Research Special Interest Group (AUR-SIG) was established. I volunteered to lead the group.

AUR-SIG has had a slow beginning (real life and day jobs have a habit of interfering!). However, I have attempted to start a blog so that colleagues may login to get information and exchange ideas. The blog is found at the following URL:

<http://blogs.nd.edu/undergradresearch/> (login username: undergradresearch, password: Eureka2010)

Currently, I have a student graphic designer working on the overall look of the site. I myself am a novice blogger, but am learning more since I am the advisor for a new, student-run academic networking site at Notre Dame. If anyone is highly skilled at setting up blogs (Wordpress, in this case), please let me know so that perhaps we can work together to develop a really polished site.

Finally, one of the tasks I have taken on for the next few weeks is to contact organizers of ISSOTL 2011, to see about hosting another pre-conference workshop in collaboration with the Council for Undergraduate Research.