Developing and Sustaining a Research - Supportive Curriculum: A Compendium of Successful Practices

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The Council on Undergraduate Research is pleased to announce a new publication designed to share successful practices that enable faculty and institutions to design, implement, and sustain a research-supportive undergraduate curriculum. The volume focuses on three broad areas: curricular elements and teaching and learning strategies that develop critical research skills, curricular infrastructure that enhances a research-supportive curriculum, and administrative contributions that initiate and sustain a research-supportive curriculum. Authors across disciplines and from a variety of types of institutions have contributed over 30 chapters and 50 ‘highlights’ describing curricular approaches, methods, techniques, etc. developed for their courses and programs of study to enhance the research experience of students and the research culture of their institutions. Topics include curricular approaches to build research skills such as inquiry-based laboratories and interdisciplinary courses and programs, institutional infrastructure and assessment practices that promote a research-supportive curriculum, and the role of the faculty and the administration in nurturing a curriculum to support a research culture. Specific examples of known practices at particular institutions are included in each chapter.

This compendium of successful curricular and institutional practices to develop critical research skills emphasizes the importance of the collective efforts of the undergraduate community to integrate research and education. By collecting and disseminating a variety of mechanisms that are effective means of creating a research-supportive undergraduate curriculum, the Council on Undergraduate Research aims to encourage faculty and institutions to continue to seek creative, useful, and significant ways to promote “learning through research”.

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