



Council on Undergraduate Research  
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### Talking Points for Faculty

- Federal investment in undergraduate research becomes more vital to the future of America every day and has a profound impact on local communities across America. *[Explain the relevance of your and your students' research --- how it addresses fundamental issues of science or how it addresses a problem of interest to society, especially as it impacts constituents in the Representative's district.]*
- Federally funded grants for undergraduate research can have far-reaching impact on institutions. *[Specifically mention any federally funded grants you or your institution have received in the last year. Note the funding agency, the amount of the grant, and the grant activity. Provide any information you can about the impact of the grant on your campus.]*
- Students learn science by doing science. *[Talk about how your mentorship role for undergraduate research students has influenced your teaching and your own learning.]* Hands-on research goes beyond what can be done by computer simulation, by distance learning, or traditional lectures. Research-active faculty members teach with freshness and vigor, as well as more current knowledge.
- Research and education are indivisible; mentorship is vital for successful undergraduate research projects. *[Discuss the positive impact that your undergraduate research student has had on you and your research.]*
- Federal laboratories are a wonderful opportunity for internships and summer research experiences by undergraduates. *[Discuss your experience in a federal laboratory setting or with programs that fund undergraduate experiences there.]* CUR urges Congress to make better use of national laboratories and federal agency labs by increasing their programs for undergraduate research.
- We support more funding for the programs authorized by the America COMPETES Act, which makes improvements to federal math and science education initiatives and a strong commitment to research. While these programs won overwhelming support from both the House and Senate last year, the funding did not materialize. We hope this year, real dollars will follow last year's strong endorsement. *[If more research funding was available, what would you be able to accomplish? Explain.]*
- There are a number of federal agencies, including NSF, the NIH, the Department of Energy, the National Endowments for the Arts and the Humanities, and others that support varied research and education programs as independent grant-making agencies, and particularly facilitate research and original scholarship. *[Discuss any collaborative research grants, grants for HBCUs and HSIs, or any other funding under these agencies you have received.]*

*Most importantly, thank your Senators and Representatives for their support.*