



Council on Undergraduate Research
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TALKING POINTS FOR FACULTY

The below points can be used to guide your communication with Representatives or Senators.

Importance of Undergraduate Research (5-10 minutes max)

- Thank you for taking the time to meet with me today to inform you about my undergraduate research work. I am here today as a faculty mentor for students from my college that are participating in the Council on Undergraduate Research's poster session on Capitol Hill which is held annually for students to present information in research that they have conducted. *[Provide a brief 1-2 sentence overview of you and your student's research. Discuss what role you have played in assisting your student in conducting undergraduate research].*
- Research and education are indivisible; mentorship is vital for successful undergraduate research projects. *[Talk about how your mentorship role for undergraduate research students has influenced your teaching and had a positive impact on your own learning and research.]*

Importance of Undergraduate Research Funding (10-15 minutes)

- 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.]*
- Congress recently reauthorized the America COMPETES Act, which could provide as much as \$40 billion in support for research, STEM education and American innovation, and CUR supports the full funding of programs authorized by that law. Several COMPETES programs invest in undergraduate research, which promotes an innovative, postsecondary education experience that feeds the STEM research pipeline, fosters new discovery and drives economic growth. *[Discuss from your unique vantage point as an educator the role that you see undergraduate research play in fostering student innovation. If COMPETES was fully funded, and more undergraduate research funding*

was available through the America COMPETES Act, what would you be able to accomplish? Explain.].

- There are a number of federal agencies, including NSF, the NIH, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, 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.]*
- Additionally, Federal laboratories provide a wonderful opportunity for internships and summer research experiences by undergraduates. *[Discuss your any work experience that you have with undergraduate students in a federal laboratory setting.]* CUR urges Congress to make better use of national laboratories and federal agency labs by increasing their programs for undergraduate research.
- CUR works with the undergraduate research community to ensure that those in the U.S. Congress who provide funding for research and education have a clear understanding of the programs they fund and why these programs are important. *[Provide a brief summary of the research you have conducted with undergraduate students and how federal dollars are being spent to support work like yours and your students].*
- Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you about undergraduate research today and

For Science and Social Sciences: I want to invite you to the Posters on the Hill presentation this evening at 5:30 p.m. in Rooms 338-B, 339-B & 340-B of the Rayburn House Office Building.

For Arts and Humanities: I want to invite you to the Posters on the Hill Luncheon meeting this afternoon at 12:00 p.m. in Room 339-B of the Rayburn House Office Building.