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New Arts and Humanities Endowment to Support Mentor Award, Other Initiatives at CUR

A new endowment at CUR will support a CUR Arts and Humanities Mentor Award as well as other initiatives to nurture arts and humanities research involving faculty members and undergraduates. Noted 2012 CUR Fellow Joyce Kinkead (distinguished professor of English, Utah State University) established this fund in 2018 to support undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry in arts and humanities disciplines. A call for nominations for the inaugural Mentor Award is expected to be issued in fall 2018. READ MORE

Register for Free Jan 31 CUR Webinar "Defining Diversity and Inclusion"

The free CUR Webinar "Defining Diversity and Inclusion: Models that Augment Undergraduate Research across All Spectrums" on January 31, 2018, at 2-3 pm EST will address diversity as it relates to the educational and scholarly role of institutions, including curricular content, scholarly methodology, and the research mission. Moderated by CUR Undergraduate Research Program Division Councilor Vanessa McRae (Lincoln University), the panel will feature the views of three faculty members at various stages of their academic careers. It will provide an overview of the impact of diversity initiatives on student competencies and knowledge, and address the question of why diversity should inform the scholarship and pedagogy of every academic discipline. This webinar is offered as part of the NSF IOS (Integrative Organismal Systems) Broadening Participation Grant 12-49925 "Integrating and Leveraging IOS Networks"
to Facilitate the Development of URM in IOS Career Paths." To register, visit the registration webpage.

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**CUR Election Ballots Now Available for Members to Cast Votes for CUR Councilors**

Ballots are now available for CUR members to vote for CUR Councilor candidates. These will be available until January 31, 2018.

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**Application Deadlines Coming Up for Student Travel Grants in CUR Divisions**

Application deadlines are approaching for student travel awards in several CUR divisions:

- **CUR Biology Division**, application deadline January 12, 2018 (faculty mentors must nominate student candidates)
- **CUR Health Sciences Division**, for first-time presenters at NCUR, application deadline January 20, 2018 (faculty mentors must nominate student candidates)
- **CUR Psychology Division**, application deadline February 15, 2018 (faculty mentors must nominate student candidates)
- **CUR Physics and Astronomy Division**, application deadline March 16, 2018
- **CUR Social Science Division**, applications considered on a first-come, first-served basis

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**Deadlines Approaching for Summer 2018 Undergraduate Opportunities**

Many application deadlines are coming up for undergraduate research opportunities in summer 2018. Options include the following:

- **REU Program in Systematics and Evolutionary Biology**, American Museum of Natural History; application deadline January 29, 2018
- **Mathematical and Theoretical Biology Institute**, Arizona State University, for students in math, biology, or related fields; application deadline January 31, 2018
- **Mosaics in Science internships**, National Park Service, for students underrepresented in STEM fields; application deadline February 4, 2018
• **REU Program**, Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center; application deadline February 9, 2018

• **REU Program** in field ecology and wildlife biology, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, application deadline February 15, 2018

• **REU Program**, Population Biology of Infectious Diseases, University of Georgia, for students in biology, computer science, ecology, mathematics, and statistics; application deadline February 19, 2018

• **REU Program**, A. J. Drexel Institute for Energy and the Environment, Drexel University; applications accepted on a rolling basis

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**NAS Report's Evidence-Based Practices Include Undergraduate Research**

*Indicators for Monitoring Undergraduate STEM Education* is a prepublication report from the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Committee on Developing Indicators for Undergraduate STEM Education, Board on Science Education. The committee has proposed a framework with indicators "to document the status and quality of undergraduate STEM education at the national level over multiple years" (S-1). The discussion about one goal, to "Increase Students’ Mastery of STEM Concepts and Skills by Engaging Them in Evidence-Based STEM Educational Practices and Programs" (S-8), includes undergraduate research as a method of accomplishing the goal. Undergraduate research also is listed in the report as a high-impact practice. [READ MORE]

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**CFP, March 2018 Symposium on Genome Editing**

The 13th annual New Mexico Bioinformatics, Science, and Technology Symposium will focus on genome editing and will be held in Santa Fe on March 15-16, 2018. The deadline for student poster abstracts is February 4, 2018. Some travel grants are available for students from small New Mexico institutions. [READ MORE]

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*CUR Dialogues 2018,* "A Sense of Mission: Pursuing Funding in Challenging Times," will bring together higher education faculty, staff members, and administrators with federal agency program officers and other grant funders in Arlington, VA, on February 15-17, 2018. Also featured will be networking opportunities, mock panels on NSF IUSE and REU programs, and keynote speakers who are Washington insiders. Held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, CUR
Dialogues 2018 will begin at 4 pm on Thursday, February 15, 2018, and will end around noon on Saturday, February 17, 2018. The registration deadline is February 1, 2018; register here.

**CUR EVENT Broadening Participation Institute—Mar 23-25, 2018—Bowie State University, Bowie, MD (application deadline: Feb 12, 2018)**

CUR’s Broadening Participation Institute seeks to assist faculty and administrators in developing or enhancing their knowledge, skills, and competencies in increasing access, fostering diversity, and creating an inclusive environment for all STEM students. Institutions will send teams of faculty and administrators to the institute, and they will work together to craft an action plan to achieve inclusive excellence on their home campuses. To apply, visit the institute webpage.

**CUR EVENT CUR Biennial—July 1-3, 2018—Arlington, VA**

The 18th CUR Biennial Conference, “Creating Collaborative Connections in and through Undergraduate Research,” will take place at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA, on July 1–3, 2018. Faculty, administrators, staff, academic and community partners, and policymakers will share interdisciplinary investigations—both individual and collaborative—across local, national, and international contexts, as they showcase models of undergraduate research activities at all types of higher education institutions (learn more about the conference themes). Keynote speakers include the following:

- José Antonio Bowen (president of Goucher College)
- Freeman A. Hrabowski III (president of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County)
- David Lopatto (director of the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment, Grinnell College)
- Robin Wright (director of the Division of Undergraduate Education, National Science Foundation)

Opportunities to present may still be available; to submit, visit the CUR Biennial Conference webpage. In addition, the following preconference workshops are scheduled for June 30, 2018:

- **A Research Lab Model for Student Research in Mathematics.** This workshop will demonstrate a model in which multiple students work together on projects over multiple years, allowing for senior students to mentor students just embarking on research. Techniques will be discussed for reformulating single-student research projects as collaborative ones, developing healthy collaborative relationships among students, promoting meaningful contributions by each student, and organizing the logistics of a larger group.
**Dialogical Opportunities.** Individuals will work within a learning community for several months before the biennial, meet at the biennial to further their discussions, and collaborate to create at least one CUR-related written product.

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**CUR Events and Deadlines**

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