



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTORS

NewsBriefs

Upcoming Events

Pre-ISSOTL Conference
Collaboration on
Undergraduate Research
October 2 (Raleigh, NC)
Abstracts Due: July 22
www.CUR.org

ISSOTL Conference
October 2-5 (Raleigh, NC)
www.issotl.org

Annual Biomedical Research
Conference for Minority
Students
November 13-16 (Nashville, TN)
Abstracts Due: Sept 6
www.ABRCMS.org

Posters on the Hill
Abstracts Due: November 4th
www.CUR.org

Creative Inquiry in the Arts
and Humanities Institute
**November 8-10
(Sacramento, CA)**
www.CUR.org

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

Conference of Research
Experiences for
Undergraduates Student
Scholarship
This conference will feature
presentations by students from
REU programs in all disciplines,
sessions for REU administrators
and faculty, and opportunities
to meet with representatives
from the National Science
Foundation and other
government agencies.
October 27-28 (Arlington, VA)

Message from Our Chair By: Janice DeCosmo

Happy end of the academic year, and welcome to new and continuing URPD members and colleagues! It has been a fun two years serving as chair of the URPD division, and as I pass the baton to incoming chair, Anne Boettcher, I am happy to report that the division is doing well, with 454 current members, many active in URPD and on CUR task forces, committees, institutes, etc. The second URPD conference at Chapman has already surpassed our first conference in registrants (final tally isn't known at time of writing), and the presenter lineup covers many topics critical to issues facing URPDs and associates. I know that this division continues to be a resource to all of us as we contend with challenges and opportunities, and develop new strategies to expand undergraduate research in the context of the evolving landscape of higher education.

Thanks to editor Kim Schneider for her great work on developing this communication tool. Please send your NewsBriefs suggestions, submissions, and feedback to KRS@ucf.edu. In addition, if anyone is interested in helping with the URPD division webpage, please contact me (jdecosmo@uw.edu) or Anne (aboettch@southalabama.edu).

Lessons Learned: Bringing Undergraduate Research Opportunities to Scale By: Patricia J. Pukkila

Many members of our division are seeking to catalyze changes in their campus cultures so that undergraduates will arrive on campus expecting to get involved in research, and leave with tangible documentation of their involvement. Below are some tips from a recently retired Associate Dean who spent 14 years bringing undergraduate research to scale on her campus.

Harness the power of grassroots interest and build community: Nationally, undergraduate research is becoming the norm because it is effective, essential and deeply satisfying. Faculty allies, especially in smaller departments eager to increase enrollments, can help to convey important messages to the higher administration. Postdocs and graduate students welcome the chance to become part of a network of liaisons to connect students to appropriate opportunities. Encourage allies to “ask BOTH what the Office for Undergraduate Research can do for you AND what you can do for the Office for Undergraduate Research”.

Consider the curriculum: Changes to the curriculum, particularly in association with reaffirmation of accreditation, tend to last. Also, curricular-based scaffolding of introductory experiences, research-exposure courses (with graduate students serving as “coaches”), research-intensive courses, and a campus symposium can help students navigate the process of pursuing mentored research, scholarship or creative performance and communicate their discoveries and findings.

Seek influence beyond your campus: Organizing and participating in symposia for your state legislature in partnership with other schools and contributing your time and ideas to the Council on Undergraduate Research are important and valuable activities.

Understand the cycle of innovation: Although universities are often seen as conservative organizations that resist change, they are known to accept innovations that are perceived as beneficial. However, the University is likely to resist absorbing the cost of the innovation for as long as possible. Since the innovation will inevitably disappear unless it is supported, it is important for the leader to continue to negotiate to make the innovation a part of campus culture.

Take a long-term view: It is deeply satisfying to work to ensure that students can embrace unsolved problems with confidence, rely on truths that emerge from curiosity, inquiry, synthesis and communication, and become enlightened citizens and leaders in our complex world.

Spotlight: Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative

By: Amanda Evert and Beth Van Winkle

Q&A

What strategies have you implemented that have successfully encouraged first-generation student participation in research?

“The university now requires a freshman seminar course that introduces students to “college life”. We make an effort to give a short presentation in as many of these courses as possible that: 1) Defines research across all disciplines, 2) Discusses the benefits of research, and 3) Discusses how to get involved in research.”

“Two-thirds of our students are first-generation. We promote UR as a means of leveling the playing field: they can compete with graduates of the most prestigious institutions in the country. UR is key to the university’s commitment to social justice. Marketing of the program is directed at first-gen students, those who don’t have “connections” to a secure future, making sure they know it was created for them.”

“We implemented a Federal Work Study research program that may have indirectly impacted first-generation student participation in research.”

“We started a program using Federal Work Study positions to give interested faculty “research assistants.” We want to give at-risk students insight into the research process, and faculty can take them on without having to create an independent research project for the student.”

URPD NewsBriefs Committee:
Kimberly Schneider (Editor,
KRS@ucf.edu), Anne Boettcher,
Janice DeCosmo, Kimberly Reiter,
Korine Steinke Wawrzynski

The Community College Undergraduate Research Initiative (CCURI) www.ccuri.org is a national consortium of community colleges dedicated to the development, implementation, and assessment of a sustainable model for integrating undergraduate research experiences into the community college biology curriculum. This national initiative was developed through the Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program from the National Science Foundation. The \$3.35 million grant provides customized faculty development programs, curriculum development support, access to a national database of research modules, and formative and summative program evaluation. Community Colleges (CC) from across the nation have eagerly joined CCURI. The following 35 CCs are actively participating:

Anoka Ramsey CC, MN
Mesalands CC, NM
Austin CC, TX
Midland C, TX
Capital CC, CT
Moreno Valley C, CA
Central Wyoming C, WY
Muskegon CC, MI
Cochise C, AZ
North Hennepin CC, MN
Edmonds CC, WA
Oklahoma City CC, OK
Everett CC, WA

Piedmont Tech C, SC
Gaston C, NC
Portland CC, OR
Glendale CC, AZ
Redlands CC, OK
Ivy Tech CC, IN
Seminole State C, FL
Kapiolani CC, HI
Truckee Meadows CC, NV
Lake Washington Institute of
Technology, WA
Tulsa CC, OK
McLennan CC, TX

Volunteer State CC, TN
Finger Lakes CC, NY
Delaware Technical CC, DE
Jamestown CC, NY
Tompkins Cortland CC, NY
Florida Keys CC, FL
Bellevue C, WA
Mass Bay CC, MA
Montgomery County CC, PA
Minnesota State Community
Technical C, MN.

In addition to active members/collaborators CCURI is building a network of two year colleges across the country. Major events hosted by CCURI have included regional meetings, lab methods workshops, national conferences and student poster presentations. This spring CCURI received a NSF WIDER supplement of \$133,000 to host a national conference in Washington, D.C. and collect data on barriers to implementing undergraduate research at community colleges. In 2013-2014, CCURI will host two regional student poster sessions: one in New York City, NY in September 2013 and one in Phoenix, AZ in February 2014. CCURI will also host a 2nd annual national conference in Washington DC in fall 2014. For more information about CCURI, please contact Beth Van Winkle, Project Director at vanwinba@ficc.edu.

URPD Updates & Accomplishments

- Welcome to our three new councilors: Sarah Simmons (UT-Austin), Joe O’Shea (FSU) and Donna Bickford (UNC-Chapel Hill) and welcome back returning councilors Carol Bender, Anne Boettcher, Karen Havholm, Kim Schneider, and Korine Wawrzynski.
- Julie Lyons received tenure at Roanoke College! Congratulations!
- Rebecca Bullard-Dillard has taken a new job at UNC-Pembroke as their Dean of Graduate Studies and Research! Best of luck!
- Patricia Pukkila is retiring after a successful career as a researcher, mentor, and advocate for student research. UNC- Chapel Hill established a fund for undergraduate research in her honor.
- Jenny Shanaham provided a keynote address at the South Alabama Conference on Teaching and Learning at the University of South Alabama, “Inspiring Student Inquiry in Courses that Matter: The Case for Research Across the Curriculum”.
- Korine Wawrzynski (and her colleagues Katy Colbry and Megan Shannahan) won best paper in the ASEE Graduate Studies Division, “Feeling Like a Grad Student: A Survey of Undergraduate Researchers’ Expectations and Experiences”.

COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

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