



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM DIRECTORS

# NewsBriefs

## Upcoming Events

CUR Dialogues  
February 20-23  
(Washington DC)  
[www.CUR.org](http://www.CUR.org)

Univ of Michigan URPD's  
25th Anniversary Colloquium  
March 14 (Ann Arbor, MI)  
Email: [sgreger@umich.edu](mailto:sgreger@umich.edu)

Annual Conference on Applied  
Learning  
March 21-22  
(Saint Joseph, MO)  
[www.missouriwestern.edu/app  
liedlearning/conference](http://www.missouriwestern.edu/app<br/>liedlearning/conference)

Diversity, Learning, and  
Student Success: Policy,  
Practice, Privilege  
March 27-29 (Chicago, IL)  
<http://www.aacu.org/meetings/>

ACPA: REINVENT  
March 30-April 2  
(Indianapolis, IN)  
<http://www2.myacpa.org/>

CUR Biennial Conference  
June 28-July 1 (Washington DC)  
Poster Abstracts Due: Feb 21  
[www.CUR.org](http://www.CUR.org)

### Special Upcoming CUR Institutes:

Broadening Participation  
Charlotte, NC  
(March 7-9)

Integrating Undergraduate  
Research into the Curriculum  
Lakeland, FL  
(March 28-30)

## Message from Our Chair

By: Anne Boettcher

Happy 2014! I want to start by thanking Janice DeCosmo for all of her help and advice as I transitioned to chair of the URPD Division. I look forward to serving and learning from my URPD members and colleagues.

This year will prove to be an exciting one in the world of undergraduate research, particularly with respect to the upcoming CUR 2014 Conference, *Creating the Citizens of Tomorrow: Undergraduate Research for All*, which will be held in Washington, DC, June 28-July 1, 2014. This year's conference focuses on broadening participation and increasing visibility of undergraduate research opportunities. We look forward to keynotes by Wayne Clough (Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution), Muriel Howard (President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities), Liz Lerman (Choreographer, McArthur Genius Award Winner, and founder of the Dance Exchange in Baltimore), and Christopher Austin (Director of NIH's National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences).

This year's conference has several new features: a lunch book club, an interactive panel of provosts who will talk about supporting undergraduate research in the current higher education environment, and a dance performance and talk. In addition, you'll be able to take advantage of our wonderful location in DC—the conference hotel is only steps away from many of the Smithsonian museums, the National Archives, National Geographic Society, and the National Mall, where the Folklife Festival will be taking place. Given all that's going on, we still hope to see you at the exciting sessions on topics that range from *Undergraduate Research for the Public Good* to *Finding and Leveraging Resources!* There is still time to submit a poster by the February 21 deadline. See the website for information regarding submission and registration. ([http://www.cur.org/conferences\\_and\\_events/cur\\_conference\\_2014](http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/cur_conference_2014)). Join URPD Members for Division Social on Sunday night at 8:30! If you're new to CUR and URPD, you'll be welcomed as old friends catch up. I look forward to seeing you at CUR 2014.

## Spotlight: Windows of Opportunity Conference

By: Korine Steinke Wawrzynski

The Undergraduate Research Program Directors second conference, *Windows of Opportunity for Undergraduate Research Program Directors*, was held in June 2013 at Chapman University in Orange, California. 195 people attended the event, a 30% increase from the 2011 conference. The conference focused on five major themes: assessment; broadening faculty and student participation in undergraduate research; marketing, fundraising, and public relations; curricular innovations; and essentials for developing or advancing undergraduate research programs. Materials can be found at: [http://www.cur.org/conferences\\_and\\_events/special\\_offerings/woo\\_2013\\_session\\_materials/](http://www.cur.org/conferences_and_events/special_offerings/woo_2013_session_materials/)

Conference participants indicated that their primary motivations for attending the event were networking, expanding their knowledge of undergraduate research resources, and learning more about how to develop an undergraduate research program or office at their home institutions. While participants found all of the topics useful or timely, they preferred sessions related to assessment and broadening participation in undergraduate research. Nearly 97% were satisfied with event. Many thanks to the URPD members who presented programs and/or helped to organize the successful meeting. Look for more information soon regarding the URPD 2015 meeting.

## Special Opportunity: "Two-Hat" Mentoring Program Kick-off

You asked for it, you got it! URPD is starting a mentoring program for those Program Directors who also wear a faculty "hat" to help with promotion, tenure and professional boundaries among other issues. We will have a come-and-go mentoring event at the 2014 CUR Conference this coming summer and are planning a series of workshops based on feedback you've given us on issues you would like to see addressed. If you are interested in being either a mentor or mentee, please contact Suma Datta at [sumad@tamu.edu](mailto:sumad@tamu.edu).



## Lessons Learned: Running an Undergraduate Showcase

By: Kimberly Schneider and URPD contributors

Small and large institutions around the world have developed opportunities to showcase students' research and creative activities. These events have a great impact on both the student participants and the university community. Here are some tips and suggestions provided by URPD councilors who have been running events for years:

- Strengthen attendance by sending a personalized invitation to each department chair. Share how many students are involved from their unit as well as students' presentation times. If you can direct department chairs to online proceedings, they can search both student and mentor departments.
- Have students fill out an information sheet *before* they check-in. This allows offices to collect data on their summer plans (e.g., REU), post-graduation plans, special awards, etc.
- Require event participation from any student receiving office funding (e.g., travel awards, grants, fellowships).
- Develop a peer choice award possibly funded by student government. This encourages students to talk to other presenters and participate in the activities. If possible, create a rule that students cannot nominate someone from their major.
- Invite graduate students to help evaluate undergraduate student posters. This strengthens the event by providing presenters with constructive feedback and increasing event foot traffic.
- Hire design students or work with a design class to create event publicity.
- Create a pre-event experience allowing students to practice and get feedback on presentation format.
- Consider expanding from a poster-only format to readings, performances, and demonstrations more reflective of presentations within the arts and humanities. Plan to make this change a few years in advance to help prepare the campus.
- Reconsider what time, day, and month to hold the event. Many programs have found that holding the event on the weekend was unsuccessful. In contrast, holding the event in conjunction with some other big campus event was much more successful (e.g., Family Weekend, Alumni Weekend, Student Research Week).
- Have a withdrawal deadline 1-3 weeks prior to the event that aligns with program printing. Students without a strong reason to miss after that deadline could be barred from other research awards or programs. This leads to a large decrease in no-shows on the event day.
- Work to provide nomenclature inclusive of all disciplines. This often requires collaborating with faculty campus-wide.

## URPD Updates & Accomplishments

- The University of Michigan UROP will be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March.
- Julia Spears was promoted to Associate Vice Provost for Engaged Learning at Northern Illinois University.
- Korine Wawrzynski was promoted to Assistant Dean for Academic Initiatives at Michigan State University (she remains the Director of Undergraduate Research).
- Sumana Datta has been selected as one of three fellows from Texas A&M University for the SEC Academic Leadership Development Program.
- Janice DeCosmo has been selected as the Issues Editor for the CUR Quarterly.
- Kimberly Schneider received the 2013 UCF Women of Distinction: Excellence in Mentoring Award.
- Kyla Esguerra and Karen Havholm are members of the new executive committee for the University of Wisconsin system-wide council.
- Plenary panel presentation at the APLU's 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: "Undergraduate Research as an Institutional Strategy" by Joyce Kinkead, Janice DeCosmo, Marcia Williams, Christopher Reese, David Asai, and Caroline Whitacre.
- Carol Bender published "The UBRP Ethics Retreat: A Model for Introducing Undergraduate Researchers to Ethics and Professional Values" in *International Journal of Science in Society*.
- The 3rd Annual Conference of Research Experiences for Undergraduate Student Scholarship was a success: 130 REU Student presentations and 30 faculty/administrator posters.

## Q&A

How do you pay student researchers?

"Mentors pay 50% of the wages for their students from external funding which is matched by our program. Thus we can support twice the number of students. This model works well with programs and institutions where mentors have external funding."

"We reimburse students for travel expenses by giving them a scholarship. We coordinate with the Scholarships and Financial Aid so that the student's financial aid limit is increased by the amount of our scholarship."

"We pay our undergraduate researcher awards as research scholarships through the student accounts office. It can affect financial aid, and we coordinate with the financial aid office to maximize benefit to students; they do allow students to submit additional expenses associated with their participation in research, if relevant."

"We shifted from hourly rates to a stipend paid in installments based on successful completion of benchmarks. We have found that this provides better mentor and program oversight of student progress and more even allocation of funds."

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