



# COPLAC

COUNCIL OF PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES

Affordability and Exceptional Value

Learning on a Human Scale

Pathways to Success

## Who We Are

➤ Founded in 1988 with six original member campuses

➤ 27 member campuses today in 25 states and one Canadian province

➤ Small to medium-sized campuses (median 3500 students)

➤ Focus on undergraduate education in small classroom setting

➤ Strong commitment to arts and sciences core curriculum

➤ 50% or more graduates with degrees in arts and sciences disciplines

➤ Growing emphasis on UR as a recognized high impact practice

➤ Annual Southeast and Northeast Regional UR conferences

➤ Undergraduate Research E-Journal, *Metamorphosis*



June 2012

21 of 27 campuses (95 faculty) participate in initial CUR Workshop at UNC Asheville

December 2011

Campuses begin submitting semi-annual progress reports to COPLAC project website

June 2012

➤ 21 campus leaders participate in wrap-up workshop at UVA-Wise and set goals for 2012-2013  
➤ COPLAC transitions to LEAP "State" membership with focus on undergraduate research  
➤ Two-year Teagle Foundation grant to test distance mentoring

January 2013

First one-on-one undergraduate research distance mentoring projects begin

June 2013

➤ First small group UR distance mentoring project begins  
➤ COPLAC Board begins planning for consortium-wide project on civic learning/engagement including opportunities for community-based undergraduate research

January 2014

Eleven campus, 14 student distance mentoring UR project begins to research and build digital liberal arts project on campus experiences during WWI.

February 2014

Eleven member campuses commit to formation of a planning group for civic learning/civic engagement initiative. Group meeting scheduled for June 2014 with project launch in August 2014.



## Major Challenges

➤ Voluntary aspect of all major initiatives. No state system requirements.

➤ Maintaining campus buy-in (and momentum) across multiple states.

➤ Building and sharing faculty expertise to assist member campuses in strengthening undergraduate research

