A Liberal Education Practically Applied: Institutionalizing Undergraduate Work

Rhona Free, Provost
Carlos A. Escoto, UGRCA Coordinator

SUCCESSES
- Establishing the Liberal Arts Work program and linking this to Undergraduate Research
- Broadening the definition of Undergraduate Research to encompass all work done by students across disciplines
- Establishing incentives and support to promote incorporation of Undergraduate work
- Recruiting and hiring faculty who are experienced in mentoring undergraduate work
- Procedures to support summer undergraduate research, projects, and travel
- Recognizing excellence with the Research Fellowship and Undergraduate Mentor Award
- Representation and Regional and National Conferences (CPLAC, HCUB, Pastors on the Hill)
- Expansion of the UGRCA Webpage with accessible links to student and faculty portals
- Creation of an Undergraduate Council with representation from all departments
- Linking of programs (LAW, Fulbright Research Preparation, Honors, and Health and Life Science)
- Use of all budget funds to support student travel for presentation/exhibition
- Successful rollout of all programs including Fellowship, Mentor Award, Travel and Project Grant

CHALLENGES
- Incorporating Undergraduate Research/Creative Activity into curriculum across majors
- Funds and Resources to expand current projects
- Sufficient resources to support faculty with “banked” credit for teaching load reduction
- Identify faculty from all departments who can allocate time to mentoring student work
- Dissemination of programs that support student work to the campus community at

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS
- How to streamline the curriculum in order to incorporate research/creative activity and allow for graduation in 4 years
- How to provide affordable faculty development related to mentoring student work
- How to build incentives for mentoring student work into promotion and tenure guidelines in a collective bargaining environment
- New Ideas for creating “buy in” from students and faculty for programs in place