Innovative Strategies to Broaden Participation & Integrate Undergraduate Research at Hunter College

Rachel Verni, PhD, Director of Undergraduate Research & Mark Hauber, PhD, Acting Associate Provost for Research

**Broadening student participation in research at Hunter**

**WEBSITE & GENERAL OUTREACH**
- Mass emails (CRM) & Bulletin
- Welcome tours and orientation sessions
- Fairs allow students to meet research program administrators directly
- Collaborations with research program staff, faculty, and student government to provide professional development workshops and other opportunities to students

**FINDING & APPLYING TO RESEARCH PROGRAMS**
- The Matching Quiz makes the process of determining eligibility for programs easy for students
- Students are directed to an online “General Application” to apply to multiple programs simultaneously

**MORE ONLINE RESOURCES & SOCIAL MEDIA**
- Students can “Ask SciMON” to find out about research and get answers from staff, browse our growing Research Opportunities Database, or connect via social media
  - @HunterSciMON

**Creating a culture of research through institutionalization and administrative policy-making**

**Undergraduate Research Conference**
Hunter’s annual Undergraduate Research Conference provides a forum for Hunter undergraduates from all disciplines and departments to present their research or scholarship via poster sessions and oral presentations. The conference also includes sessions about pursuing research opportunities at Hunter and beyond and an awards ceremony that honors the best student posters and presentations as well as faculty excellence in mentoring undergraduates in research and scholarship.

**AWARDS FOR FACULTY & STUDENTS**

**STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES**
Online and across campus, we feature success stories from present and former students involved in research. They are asked to:

1. describe their research interests, accomplishments, and goals
2. provide words of encouragement to other students

**STUDENT INPUT**

**STUDENT TESTIMONIALS**

"It was great to learn about so many interesting and varied student projects...[The UGRC] showed me the very broad scope of the research being undertaken in the labs at Hunter and that these same labs have many exciting research projects that students can get involved in."

-- Post-bacc/senior, biology major

**Major Challenges & Future Directions**
- Enhancing undergraduate research outside the sciences
- Integrating research into the curriculum
- Securing funding to expand undergraduate research support
- Strengthening evaluation and assessment strategies (e.g., increases in graduation rates, graduate school enrollment in STEM disciplines, etc.)