



# EDUCATION DIVISION NEWS

A publication of a division of the Council on Undergraduate Research

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## Report from the Chair



Ruth J. Palmer

Greetings to the membership of the CUR Education Division! I am very happy to report on the progress of the work being done on your behalf by the Division councilors in this first year of our operation.

The division focused its activities on defining and actualizing a CUR Education Division identity. Specifically, we adopted principles and practices related to the following:

- continuing the commitment to the CUR mission and the related division goals (2016),
- establishing effective and efficient work structures for the group,
- undertaking significant service to our growing division membership (now numbering 248), and
- actively engaging in activities related to the advancement of the Education Division.

### Commitment to the CUR Mission and Related Division Goals

While the CUR mission and our division goals give us direction, we have embraced the following principles to guide the conduct of our work and to keep our commitment alive:

- *Collaboration and Accountability.* We conduct division business in our bimonthly teleconference. Councilor participation ranged between 85 and 90 percent.
- *Distributive Leadership.* Subgroups, each led by a councilor, were established for specific tasks. This

## About CUR's Education Division

The Education Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research provides networking opportunities, activities, and resources to assist administrators, faculty members, students, practitioners, and others in advancing undergraduate research.

- **Division Chair:** [Ruth J. Palmer](#),  
The College of New Jersey

- **Education Councilors**

James Beyers, The College of New Jersey

Paula E Faulkner,

North Carolina A&T State University

Kymberly Harris, Georgia Southern University

Charles Lopez, Eastern Washington University

Jenn Manak, Bridgewater State University

Rebecca McMullen, Fort Valley State University

Dennis Munk, Carthage College

Joe Murray, Bucknell University

Ruth Palmer, The College of New Jersey

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# Report from the Chair

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serves as an incubator for leadership development, in anticipation of the work needed to support networks/communities of educators to support the full adoption of undergraduate research in educational institutions.

- *Participation.* Each Councilor is expected to participate actively in at least one of the subgroups as evidence of his/her commitment to the CUR mission and division goals.

We embrace these principles and continue to use them as a beacon for our collaborative work.

## Working Structures: Collaborative Leadership

Working in collaborative subgroups, we focused on the practice of leadership, participation, and the management of work projects related to establishing and sustaining undergraduate research in education and education-related fields. The four subgroups focused on the following:

- *Faculty Engagement in Undergraduate Research.* Designing feasible ways to engage faculty groups.
- *Student Engagement.* Promoting intra- and inter-institutional partnerships and collaborations that support undergraduate research
- *Models.* Gathering models of administrators/staff/faculty advocacy in support of undergraduate research
- *Communication.* Establishing purposeful communications within the division, with other CUR divisions, and with professional organizations to advance CUR's mission and our division's goals.

## Service to Division Membership

The division designed, constructed, and administered a survey of its membership in March 2017; its goal was to identify division membership characteristics and, in so doing, be more responsive to its needs. Thank you for your participation.

## Active Engagement in Activities Related to the Advancement of the Education Division

- The division's subgroups submitted six presentations/posters for the 2017 meeting of the Undergraduate Research Program Directors; these were accepted. We plan to engage attendees in dialogue on issues related to our plans.
- The division established its first undergraduate faculty/student research scholarship, focused on first- and second-year students in education and education-related fields. Division members are urged to apply.

I hope that you are satisfied with the work that has been done to date. At the end of this year, the division will prepare a more comprehensive accounting of our 2016–2017 efforts. Until then, do send me any comments and/or recommendations that you may have regarding how we can serve you better. •

## What Is Distributed Leadership?

“Distributed leadership is primarily concerned with the practice of leadership rather than specific leadership roles or responsibilities.

“Distributed leadership means mobilizing leadership expertise at all levels in the school and institutions in order to generate more opportunities for change and to build the capacity for improvement. The emphasis is upon *interdependent* interaction and practice rather than individual and *independent* actions associated with those with formal leadership roles or responsibilities.”

—Alma Harris, “Distributed Leadership,” *Teacher Magazine*, September 29, 2014, <https://www.teachermagazine.com.au/article/distributed-leadership>

## Spotlight on ... *Undergraduate Research in Education*

Ruth Palmer facilitated the panel “Integrating Multicultural Education and Special Education in Teacher Preparation,” composed of undergraduates and held at the Pennsylvania National Association for Multicultural Education (PA-NAME) 19th Annual Conference, Dickinson University, on March 2–3, 2017.

Three students in a sophomore-level adolescent psychology course in TCNJ’s School of Education presented a synthesized version of their course-based research:

- “Mentoring Emerging Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDDs): Turning Inclusion on Its Head.” Jessica Figueroa, Spanish education major
- “Narrative Inquiry, a Lens and Analytic Tool for Meaning Making: My Experiences Mentoring College Students with IDD.” Lisha Silver, mathematics education major
- “Personal Life Experience: Understanding Self, Disabilities, and Inclusion.” Olivia Colomier, history education major

At the College of New Jersey’s (TCNJ) Annual Celebration of Student Achievement on May 3, 2017, these students presented on the broader topic of integrating multicultural education and special education in teacher preparation using a practicum model of peer mentoring, undergraduate research, and identity exploration. This event featured the research, scholarship, and creative activity of TCNJ students from all disciplines, including paper presentations, poster sessions, art exhibitions, and other products of student work. •

### Have Items for *Spotlight*?

Share the undergraduate research in education at your institution. Email [Ruth J. Palmer](mailto:Ruth.J.Palmer).

## Events of Note

**Undergraduate Research Program Directors Meeting.** May 31, 2017, is the registration deadline for the Undergraduate Research Program Directors meeting in Flagstaff. This conference on June 27–29 at Northern Arizona University will host faculty and academic professionals interested in the improvement, management, and promotion of undergraduate research and is designed for programs at any stage, including the development phase. To register, visit the [meeting webpage](#). •

**2017 National Conference on Undergraduate Research.** The University of Memphis hosted more than 4000 participants at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Students from across 50 states and more than 19 countries shared their research, creative works, ideas, and enthusiasm. There were approximately 152 presenters with topics related to education. The majority (113) of the presentations were in the education category, whereas another 39 fell outside of education preparation programs. The inspirational and motivational speakers included Fredrick Smith, founder and CEO of FedEx; Santosh Kumar, named one of America’s most brilliant scientists in 2010; and Terry Lee Freeman and Daphne McFerren, leaders in civil rights and social change. •



## Save the date!

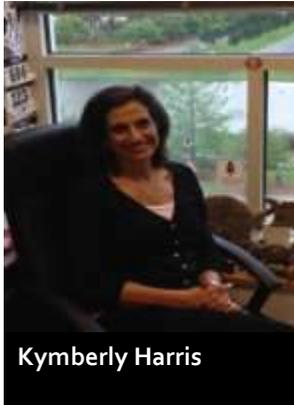
**32nd Annual National  
Conference on  
Undergraduate Research  
April 4–7, 2018**

**For preliminary details, visit:**

<http://bit.ly/info-NCUR2018>

**Abstract submission will open  
in October 2017.**

## Meet Your Education Councilors



Kymberly Harris

**Kymberly Harris** is an associate professor in the Department of Teaching & Learning at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. Harris currently serves as vice chair of the CUR Education Division. Her undergraduate research involvement stems from an internal grant in the College of Education awarded in 2012 that provided funding for a pilot program in the BS.Ed in special education program whereby undergraduates worked with clinical supervisors in their year-long placements to address specific school/district-wide goals. This initial design led to a program change (over a five-year period) that embedded a year-long required action research project into the undergraduate program.



Joe Murray

Congratulations to Education Division Councilor **Joe Murray** on the publication of his new book, *Undergraduate Research for Student Engagement and Learning*. It is scheduled for release at the end of August and is available for pre-order on the [Amazon](#) and [Routledge](#) websites. Murray is an associate professor of education and director of the College Student Personnel Program at Bucknell University.

## Coming in Fall 2017!



CUR's new academic journal *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research (SPUR)* will replace *CUR Quarterly*.