

The FLEUR Program: Integrating Undergraduate Research into the Curriculum at the University of Alaska Anchorage

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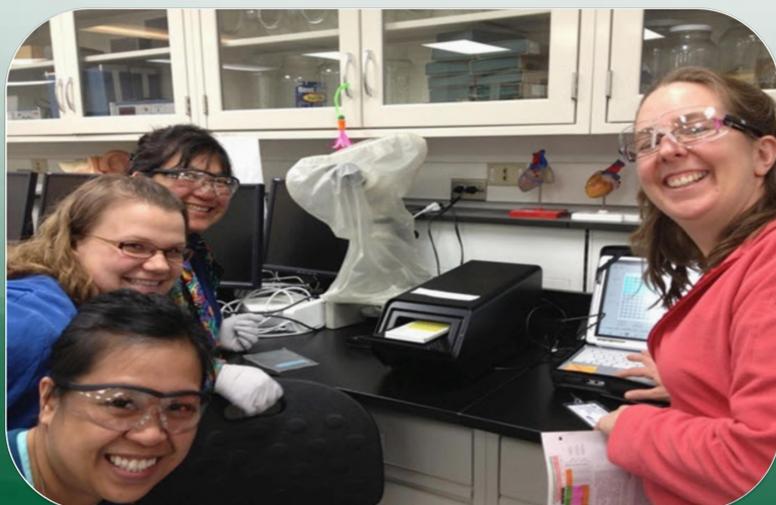


Program Goals

- Increase the number of research experiences available to University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) students.
- Teach students how to conduct research and/or scholarly activity in their field, gain new research skills, learn how to think critically and scientifically.

Program Structure

- The Faculty Leadership in Expanding Undergraduate Research (FLEUR) is a competitive award for a faculty member that proposes to integrate original research into an existing course.
- Awards are up to \$5,000 each, of which \$2,500 may be used for curriculum development and the remainder for project expenses.
- Proposals are reviewed by a faculty panel with recommendations made to the Dean of the University Honors College.
- The FLEUR program was designed and initiated by faculty members.
- The program operates on funds donated to the University Honors College, with generous support from the Alaska Cardiovascular Research Foundation.



Dr. C. Trussell and students testing for paralytic shellfish poisoning as part of a community-based research project integrated into Microbiology enabled by FLEUR

Results

- 18 FLEUR proposals submitted between spring 2011 and spring 2013.
 - 10 proposals funded
 - Enabled 78 students to participate directly in research
- Benefit to the research program for participating faculty, including papers
- Student End-of-Class Surveys (n=40, four FLEUR classes):

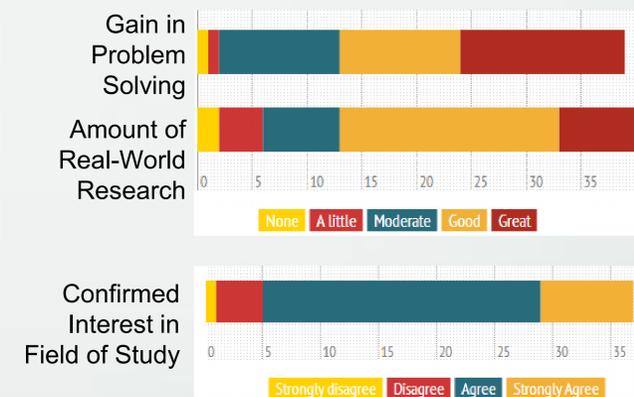
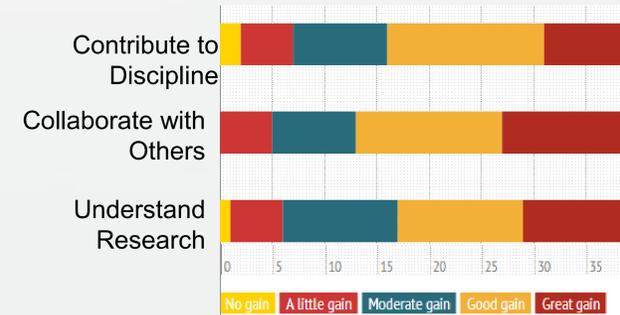
- More likely to enroll in a Masters program



- More likely to enroll in a Ph.D. program



- Gain from course



Conclusions

- Positive student and faculty feedback, some experiences transformative.
- The FLEUR program is a successful model for integrating research into a course. Each award provides a direct research experience for multiple students.

“(The FLEUR experience) made me realize that discovering something completely new is within reason and that it's not just super-geniuses out there making scientific discovery. Gave me confidence to pursue graduate school.”

- Feedback from student end-of-class survey

<http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ours/for-faculty/FLEUR/>