OUR NEW MISSION: The mission of the Council on Undergraduate Research is to support and promote high-quality mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry.
Past, Present & Future: 
Letters from Leadership

CUR Community,
As the year draws to a close, what better time to stop and reflect on 2019’s growth, collaboration, capacity building, and dynamic outcomes our organization has undertaken.

The CUR community spirit is palpable and a key factor within the successes of our organization. It is a gift to witness as your Executive Officer and more so for a new member—the supportive discussions in the CUR Community; informal hallway conversations at CUR events; enthusiastic volunteers at all levels; and the overall emphasis on sharing expertise, ideas, and the wisdom of experience. CUR is more than just an association; it is a community focused on supporting greater access to the benefits of participating in undergraduate research for mentors and students. You are changing the future. You are supporting each other. You are CUR.

In the pages that follow, we will highlight parts of CUR that you may have engaged in and some you may not have known about. Take a moment and join us in celebrating the success of your fellow community members. Big or small, all are important to applaud as they are critical to our mission and CUR’s wider impact. The partnership between the National Office, our members, and volunteers results in a fantastic breadth of resource development for the community. There are the tangible journals and self-published publications; the interactive events, meetings, and institutes; and then, there are the less visible—mentoring, advocating for funding, resources, and support, and the thought leadership with partner organizations and the wider higher-education community—that makes CUR who it is. It makes CUR stand out above the rest. And, it makes CUR more than just an association. It makes it so that I can say, “I am CUR. You are CUR. We are CUR.”

With such an amazing community of members, volunteers and partners, I see 2020 as a year of engagement, growth, and opportunity. As we plan for a long-term future, I am excited for what CUR holds.

Yours in service,
Lindsay Currie
Executive Officer, CUR

CUR Friends and Colleagues,
This Year in Review allows us the opportunity to reflect on CUR’s accomplishments during the past year, take a moment to marvel at the progress we have made as a community, and begin to look forward to new opportunities for learning and impact as we enter a new decade.

Although we are still in the process of re-defining our strategic plan for the next five years, I anticipate that we will be moving in some new directions and deepening our work on current priorities such as diversity, equity, and assessment. I see CUR engaging a more diverse cadre of undergraduate mentors to share proven practices, including future faculty, graduate students, post-doctoral associates, as well as industry- and community-based mentors.

Harnessing the power of web-based learning platforms in ways that complement in-person collaboration and provide more cost-effective delivery models will also be essential to our success in the future. As we continue to build CUR’s reputation as the leading source of expertise on undergraduate research through our publications, advocacy, and other projects, we will also seek new partnerships with organizations that share our goals and help us to deliver on our mission.

As I explore this report, I am struck by the great energy of our volunteers and national office staff, who dedicate their expertise to CUR’s institutes, conferences, publications, activities, and grant-funded projects that support our participants. This work is fueled by the passion we all share for undergraduate learning, research, and success. I am truly inspired by all that you have helped to accomplish this past year on behalf of CUR. I look forward to working with you in 2020 to continue to create the future of CUR.

Best Wishes,
Janice DeCosmo
CUR President, 2019-20

2020 CUR GOALS

- **Relationship Building.** Spotlighting on our strong community partners while creating new connections and expanding on existing relationships to better support our community and value of UR.
- **Grow the Community.** Encouraging more participation, more engagement, and more connection between our community for support and overall strength.
- **Testing & Listening.** CUR’s National Office will be bringing in new formats, testing out messaging and listening to your feedback on how you want to engage in your membership.
Breaking the Barriers: Who is CUR?

Who are our members?

- Arts & Humanities: 1,281
- At-Large: 1,361
- Biology: 1,495
- Chemistry: 1,081
- Education: 417
- Engineering: 550
- Geosciences: 248
- Health Sciences: 809
- Math & Computer Sciences: 704
- Physics & Astronomy: 365
- Psychology: 1,062
- Social Sciences: 1,300
- UR Programs: 1,046
- Undeclared*: 2,192

*See where you stand and update your profile.

WE ARE COMMUNITY.

Have you connected with your CUR community through our online forum? CUR has provided a place for knowledge exchange, content curation, idea incubation, and professional networking. See how your community has grown in 2019.

2019 TOP COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

- Anne Boettcher, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Janice DeCosmo, University of Washington
- Linda Blockus, University of Missouri-Columbia
- Keenan Dungey, University of Illinois at Springfield
- Alexa Sand, Utah State University

NEWEST COMMUNITY

Because a student member saw a need for there to be a stable place for student journal editors, supporters, and contributors to collaborate, CUR introduced the newest community, STUDENT JOURNALS. Now there is a place for student leaders to learn from their predecessors, for institutions to learn how to start a journal, and for faculty mentors who guide these students to share best practices and support.

WE ARE MENTORING.

79 LIBRARY RESOURCES

TOP ACCESSED ITEMS:
1. Best Practice Instructions for Developing a Poster
2. Rubrics to Review Research Grant Applications
3. Assessing CUREs
4. Summer Research Support
5. Distribution of Overhead

2019 JOB POSTS: 200
2019 DISCUSSION POSTS: 650
Janice DeCosmo  
**President**  
University of Washington

Iain Crawford  
**Immediate Past-President**  
University of Delaware

Silvia Ronco  
**President-Elect**  
Research Corporation

Karen Havholm  
**Treasurer**  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Mark Marshall  
**Secretary**  
Amherst College

Lindsay Currie  
**Ex Officio**  
CUR National Office

### CUR Executive Board Members

- **Joanne Altman**, Division Representative  
  High Point University
- **Beth Cunningham**, General Representative  
  American Association of Physics Teachers
- **Carlos Escoto**, General Representative  
  Eastern Connecticut University
- **Bridget Gourley**, Division Representative  
  DePauw University
- **Marilyn Hart**, Division Representative  
  Minnesota State University - Mankato
- **Kymberly Harris**, Council Representative  
  Georgia Southern University
- **Maria Iacullo-Bird**, Council Representative  
  Pace University
- **Jeanne Mekolichick**, Division Representative  
  Radford University
- **Ruth Palmer**, General Representative  
  The College of New Jersey
- **Lee Phillips**, Division Representative  
  University of North Carolina - Greensboro
- **Karen Resendes**, Division Representative  
  Westminster College
- **Charlotte Simmons**, Council Representative  
  University of Central Oklahoma

### Author Spotlight

Michael Dorff (Brigham Young University) coauthored A Mathematician's Practical Guide to Mentoring Undergraduate Research, amongst other publications and articles. He is the president of the Mathematical Association of America, a former CUR Councilor, and a former chair of the CUR Mathematics and Computer Sciences Division. Check out his latest publication in the CUR store.

### See Your Name in Lights

Every week, CUR features a student’s great achievements. From, “The Complexity of Engaging Third Graders with Word Problems,” to, “An Investigation on Congenital Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum,” students are the future, and they deserve the spotlight. Check out their great stories on our homepage under Featured Undergraduate Research Stories.

### CUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

- Volunteering
- Have You Met?

The success of CUR is brought on by our members and volunteers. Our community supports us. With that, **WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE**.
CUR congratulates our 2019 award recipients.

Faculty Mentor Award
This award is given to those faculty whose teaching, mentoring, and collaborative scholarship have distinguished themselves as transformative culture changers in the advancement of undergraduate research in each specific discipline.

Mathematics & Computer Sciences
Pamela Harris,
Williams College
Manda Riehl,
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Kenneth Berenhaut,
Wake Forest University

Physics & Astronomy
Sanju Gupta,
Western Kentucky University
Cristian Bahrim,
Lamar University

CUR Goldwater Scholars Faculty Mentor Award
This award is to celebrate faculty mentors who have helped their students achieve one of the most prized awards an undergraduate majoring in science, engineering, and mathematics can achieve. These faculty have made a stance as being an innovator and supporter within undergraduate research community.

Suzanne O’Handley,
Rochester Institute of Technology

Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research Award
This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated excellence in mentoring and supporting undergraduate researchers by supporting and influencing students’ educational and career paths.

Biology
Jessica Malisch,
St. Mary’s College of Maryland
Amelia Ahern-Rindell,
University of Portland
Marina Cetkovic-Cvrjle,
St. Cloud State University

Geosciences
David Gibson,
University of Maine-Farmington

Social Sciences
Sarah J. Purcell,
Grinnell College

Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA)
This award recognizes the most prestigious higher education institutions that have successfully implemented some or all of CUR’s Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR), have devised exemplary programs to provide high-quality research experiences, and have evaluated the success of these programs.

Bridgewater State University
Florida State University
Occidental College

Don’t see your award listed? Reach out to CUR’s National Office cur@cur.org

Student-Faculty Collaborative Research in Education Award
This award is presented to undergraduate dual- or double-majoring in teacher education or a related field who is currently or will be engaging in a faculty-mentored research project conducted as an independent study or a course-embedded research project.

Allison Lundy,
Eastern Connecticut State University

Honorary CUR Fellows Award
This award is presented to leaders who support undergraduate research through industry, advocacy, partnering, and beyond.

France A. Cordova,
National Science Foundation

Arts & Humanities Awards
Trimmer Travel Fund (Student Award)
As a gift from Joe Trimmer, Professor emeritus of English at Ball State University, and the late Carol Trimmer, the fund is awarded to Arts & Humanities students who will be presenting their research at professional meetings.

Chloe Landis,
University of California at Los Angeles
Martha Whiteman,
Winthrop University
Samantha Fain,
Franklin College
Olivia Reyes,
University of Central Oklahoma

Faculty Mentor Award
This award honors mentors in Arts & Humanities who are leaders and role models for those involved in UR, scholarship, or creative activities.

Donald Lawrence,
Thompson Rivers University, Canada
Neel Smith,
College of the Holy Cross

ACHIEVING
Where we traveled in 2019...

FEB
CUR DIALOGUES
We brought faculty and administrators to the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area to interact with federal agency program officers and other grant funders.

BROADENING PARTICIPATION INSTITUTE
We helped faculty and administrators develop and enhance their knowledge, skills, and competencies in increasing access, fostering diversity, and creating an inclusive environment for all students in URSCA.

APR
POSTERS ON THE HILL
A favorite event amongst many! We listened to many student researchers present their poster sessions to members of Congress and their staff on Capitol Hill.

MAY
WORLD CUR
We were grateful to network in Germany with the world’s best undergraduate researchers that focus on some of the most significant challenges facing the global community. How will we wait another 3 years for this conference?

JUN
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
We encouraged faculty and academic professionals to share ideas, strategies, and best practices centered around building and enhancing undergraduate research and creative inquiry programs.

JUL
PROPOSAL WRITING INSTITUTE
We brought together faculty and administrators and helped prepare proposals for submissions to external funding agencies.

CUR SYMPOSIUM
We listened and learned from student presentations on REU programs in all disciplines funded by the NSF.

CPO
CREATIVE INQUIRY (ARTS & HUMANITIES)
We helped spread the word on current research on learning outcomes for students engaging in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity.

BEGINNING A RESEARCH PROGRAM
We spoke to faculty members on how to establish and manage a research program with undergraduates.

2020

OCT
JUNE 25-27
CUR Annual Business Meeting: West Lafayette, IN

JUNE 27-30
CUR Biennial: Purdue University West Lafayette, IN

JULY 8-12
Proposal Writing Institute: Daemen College | Buffalo, NY

APRIL 19-21
Posters on the Hill: Washington, DC

APRIL 20-24
Undergraduate Research Week: Nationwide

MARCH 20-22
Broader Participation Institute: Carroll University | Waukesha, WI

MARCH 26-28
NCUR: Montana State University Bozeman, MT

FEBRUARY 14-16
CUR Dialogues: Arlington, VA

It was my first time at the REU Symposium 2019, and I can’t say which part was my favorite because I enjoyed everything—from the keynote speaker, the opportunity to meet other students, learning from the workshops, and getting the opportunity to go to dinner with other students.

Survey Response

Did You Make it to NCUR 2019?
It was our best year yet! Hosted in April by Kennesaw State University in Georgia. This is the premier national conference devoted exclusively to undergraduate student research and creativity in all disciplines for over 30 years.

ATTENDEES
4700+

SUBMISSIONS
400+

ABSTRACTS
3500+

WHAT WILL NCUR 2020 BRING?
So how do you get on the train as well? Thanks to our National Office and many volunteers, in 2019, CUR released its “Why’s, When’s and How’s on Social Media Platforms.” Through social media, those in the undergraduate research community can share information, stimulate discussion, discuss problems, seek support, nurture collaboration, and build connections as they work to advance the undergraduate research enterprise at local, regional, national, and international levels. CUR members advocate for undergraduate research and the organization itself in both their personal and professional lives, including in the social media sphere.

Check out our social media guidelines by joining our Social Media Community today!

Don't forget to follow us @CURinAction

Make sure we see your trending news!
#UndergraduateResearch #URW2020 #POTH2020 #STEM #AcademicTwitter #Mentoring
CELEBRATING CUR’S SUCCESS IN 2019 PUBLICATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP & PRACTICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (SPUR)
A subscription-based scholarly journal included in most CUR memberships or through independent purchasing that was launched in fall 2017. In 2019, SPUR went live in database libraries such as ProQuest Education, and indexing began in ERIC.

2019 PUBLICATIONS
A Mathematician’s Practical Guide to Mentoring Undergraduate Research (AMS/MAA/CUR)
By CUR members: Michael Dorff, Allison Henrich, and Lara Pudwell

2019 WHITE PAPERS
Undergraduate Research: A Road Map for Meeting Future National Needs and Competing in a World of Change
CUR Task Force: Joanne D. Altman, Tsu-Ming Chiang, Christian S. Hamann, Huda Makhfuf, Virginia Peterson, and Sara E. Orel

2019 eBooks
CUR made it easier to read while you travel! Visit our bookstore to see what new publications and SPUR editions we converted into eBooks!

GRANTS
Improving Undergraduate Education Through Community Building and Adoption of an Evidence-based Practice to Evaluate Undergraduate Research
NSF - DUE IUSE 13-47681
Grant Period: Jan. 1, 2015 - Dec. 31, 2019
Jill K. Singer, Principal Investigator
Sean P. Fox, Co-Principal Investigator
EvaluateUR will be available starting January 2020. It is a strategy for obtaining an objective assessment of the value of undergraduate research (UR) by documenting student growth in critical academic and workforce-related knowledge and skills without placing a significant evaluation burden on students and research mentors.

Student Research Within Communities of Practice
NSF - DUE IUSE 16-10350
Grant Period: Sept. 15, 2016 - Aug. 30, 2020
Russell Genet, Principal Investigator
Dwight Collins, Co-Principal Investigator
John Kenney, Co-Principal Investigator
Elizabeth L. Ambos, Co-Principal Investigator
This project is exploring the potential to positively transform undergraduate science education through student research seminars. These are specifically structured to produce peer-reviewed journal articles based on students’ research within the confines of a single semester. The investigators are assessing opportunities for applying the seminar’s community-of-practice approach to other sciences beyond astronomy and environmental science. They are also organizing a focus group of national education and policy experts, who will consider how to expand nationally and scaffold the research seminar’s paradigm of students as scientists.

Integrating and Scaffolding research into Undergraduate STEM Curricula: Probing Faculty, Student, Disciplinary, and Institutional Pathways to Transformational Change
NSF - DUE IUSE 16-25354
Grant Period: Sept. 1, 2016 - Aug. 31, 2021
Elizabeth Ambos, Principal Investigator
Kerry K. Karukstis, Co-Principal Investigator
Jillian Kinzie, Co-Principal Investigator
Mitchell R. Malachowski, Co-Principal Investigator
Jeffery M. Osborn, Co-Principal Investigator
Over a sustained five-year period, the team is designing, implementing, and assessing efforts to deeply integrate the components and learning outcomes of high-quality undergraduate research throughout the undergraduate STEM curricula at 12 institutions recruited through a national outreach effort.

NSF Funding to AACC and CUR Program
Nov. 20-22, 2019
Community College UR Experience Summit
Hosted by AACC in partnership with NSF and in collaboration with CCURI and CUR, underwritten by the NSF’s Advanced Technological Education program. This summit was focused on the role of community colleges in building, implementing, and sustaining UREs in STEM education and workforce preparation. It highlighted community college leadership in STEM by raising awareness of the innovative use of UREs as an effective and proven strategy for career skill development, student retention, and academic success. A report will be published in early 2020 and disseminated nationally to broaden community college participation in UREs.
I AM CUR. YOU ARE CUR. WE ARE CUR.

The National Office is here to help you whenever and however you need it. Renewing membership, understanding what publication would be best for your institution or research project, or getting in touch with those members who can mentor your needs. Let us support you where we can and connect you when you need it.

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EXT 207

Pamela Dodge
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www.CUR.org

Make sure to continue to check our website event’s page for upcoming educational opportunities, our bookstore for the latest member publications, volunteer in any capacity, and continue to communicate with your peers on our community.

Thank you for a successful 2019. We look forward to what 2020 will bring.