



Council on Undergraduate Research
Learning Through Research



Undergraduate research is an inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline.



CUR Quarterly
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Presenting Results: Regional Undergraduate Research Conferences

www.cur.org

The screenshot shows the CUR website homepage with the following elements:

- Navigation menu: News, Students, Members, Contact CUR, Join CUR, Search Here.
- Header: CUR logo, Council on Undergraduate Research, Learning Through Research, Login field.
- Main navigation: About CUR, Membership, Publications, Conferences & Events, Projects & Services, Governance, Advocacy, Resources.
- Hero section: A collage of images including a student in a lab, a man pointing, and a woman with a ribbon. Text: "NCUR 2015 will be April 16-18, 2015 hosted by Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA."
- Latest News: Council on Undergraduate Research Grant PIs Edit Special Issue of Wiley's New Directions for Higher Education Journal; Council on Undergraduate Research Grant PIs Edit Special Issue of Wiley's New Directions for Higher Education Journal "Enhancing and Expanding...".
- Event Calendar: Mar 27-29: Integrating Undergraduate Research into the Curriculum; Mar 27, 2015-March 29, 2015; Apr: Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research.
- NCUR 2015 banner with logo.

Expanding the Conversation
2012-2014

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is a dynamic, vibrant, and fast-growing higher education non-profit organization. The last three years have seen expansion and diversification of our information resources, educational programs, member services, and advocacy. Accelerated by the 2011 joining between CUR and the prestigious National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), CUR's future growth as the voice and major resource for undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry will center on serving and empowering established and emerging leaders, and on providing high-quality resources to aid higher education institutions in their transformation to undergraduate research-intensive educational environments.

–Elizabeth L. Ambos, Executive Officer

CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

The idea for the *Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR)* publication came out of a brainstorming session during an Executive Board meeting and was released in 2012. The COEUR Task Force developed the CUR Campus-Wide Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA) to recognize institutions that have devised exemplary programs that successfully implement some of these characteristics of excellence to provide high-quality research experiences for their students.

CUR-Goldwater Scholars Faculty Mentor Award was inaugurated in 2014 in recognition of the important roles that faculty mentors play in the success of Goldwater Scholars. The award is presented jointly by CUR and the Goldwater Scholarship Foundation to acknowledge individual faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the success of undergraduate researchers who have gone on to be Goldwater Scholars.

Participation in student focused events has grown rapidly; in 2014 the University of Kentucky hosted the largest NCUR to-date. The Research Experiences for Undergraduates Symposium set its record participation in 2013, and in 2014, students had the opportunity to present at the National Science Foundation Headquarters. Posters on the Hill 2014 added a young professionals' panel hosted in conjunction with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

EXPANDING EXPERTISE

CUR has adopted five strategic pillars to aid the organization in planning and envisioning the future of undergraduate research. **Integrating and Building Undergraduate Research into Curriculum and Coursework, Assessment of the Impact of Undergraduate Research, Diversity and Inclusion in Undergraduate Research, Innovation and Collaboration in Undergraduate Research, and Internationalization and Undergraduate Research.**

CUR has launched three new institutes, Creative Inquiry in the Arts and Humanities, Broadening Participation, and Integrating Research into the Curriculum, expanding our offerings to eight rotating professional development workshops.

In 2013 CUR expanded its commitment to students with the addition of a Manager for Student Programs and Student Programs Task Force.

GRANTS

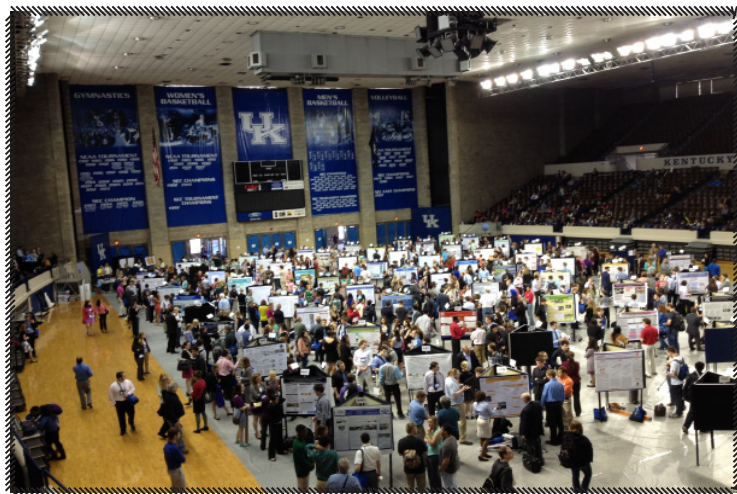
At the end of 2014, the CUR completed its ground-breaking work with 80 academic institutions on a National Science Foundation-Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement grant (NSF CCLI DUE 09-20275). A joint publication with Wiley Publications entitled "Enhancing and Expanding Undergraduate Research: A Systems Approach" was issued as a special theme issue in the March 2015 *New Directions for Higher Education*.

The CCLI II community college project was successfully completed in September 2014. This project began in 2010 and allowed CUR to work with more than 100 community colleges to develop their capacity for undergraduate research engagement. A summary publication, *Tapping the Potential of All: Undergraduate Research at Community Colleges* was released in 2014. (DUE 09-20083)

The NSF IOS project, in partnership with the American Physiological Society and The Leadership Alliance is entering its third year. The theme of the grant is to broaden and diversify the pipeline of students and faculty from underrepresented groups in the biological sciences. (IOS 12-49925)

The CUR is deeply appreciative of the support of the Alice and Leslie E. Lancy Foundation for two main initiatives undertaken over the past three years; re-envisioning organizational governance structures, and completing the joining of the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research with CUR. The result of these investments is a better, stronger CUR.

NCUR 2014- University of Kentucky



COMMUNICATIONS

Between 2012-2014 CUR released 8 publications.

In 2012, CUR launched a redesigned website. The new look helps to give CUR an updated feel with new technological capabilities.

In 2013, CUR launched the CUR Quarterly online searchable archive.

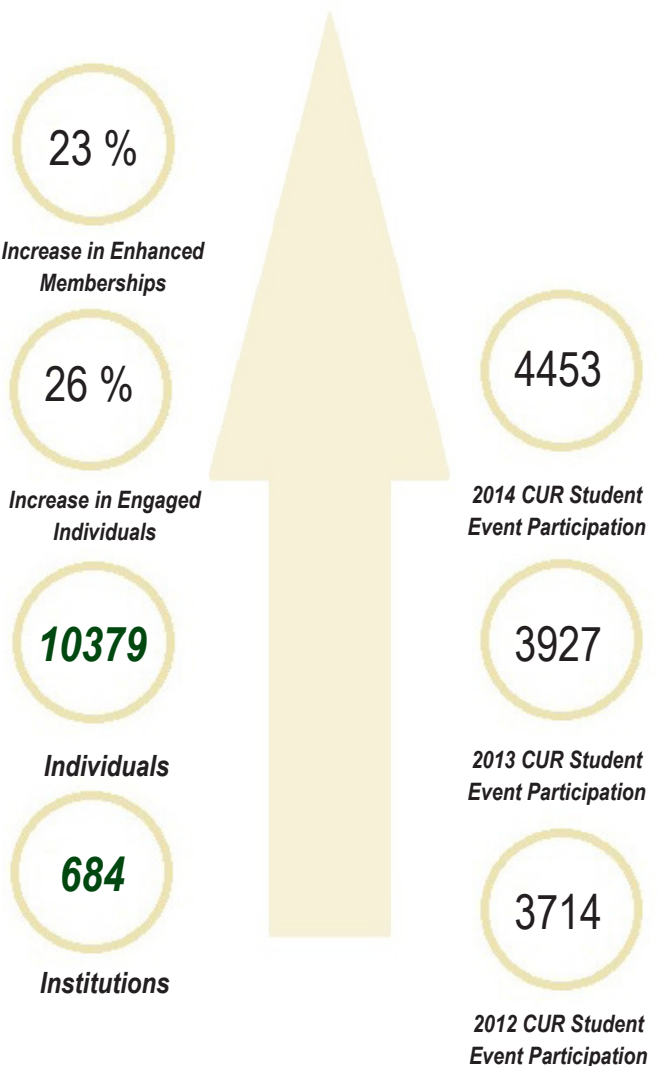
In 2014, CUR entered into a partnership with MultiView to produce an electronic newsletter, moving from monthly to bi-weekly frequency. CUR receives a percentage of revenue derived from advertisements posted in the newsletter.



The worthy recognition of undergraduate research and scholarly/creative activities as a high-impact learning pedagogy globally, validates the work conducted by CUR for the past 35 years. CUR is a proactive organization leading the way in promoting and supporting the undergraduate research enterprise. Its unique governance structure, which includes a strong grassroots volunteer base, allows us to be on the cutting edge and responsive to our colleagues' needs. The organization is guided by its dynamic Strategic Plan, which emphasizes quality student experiences in our overarching foundational pillars pertaining to Assessment, Diversity and Inclusion, Curricular Integration, Innovation and Collaboration, and Internationalization of Undergraduate Research.
 –Amelia J. Ahern-Rindell, CUR President 2014-2015

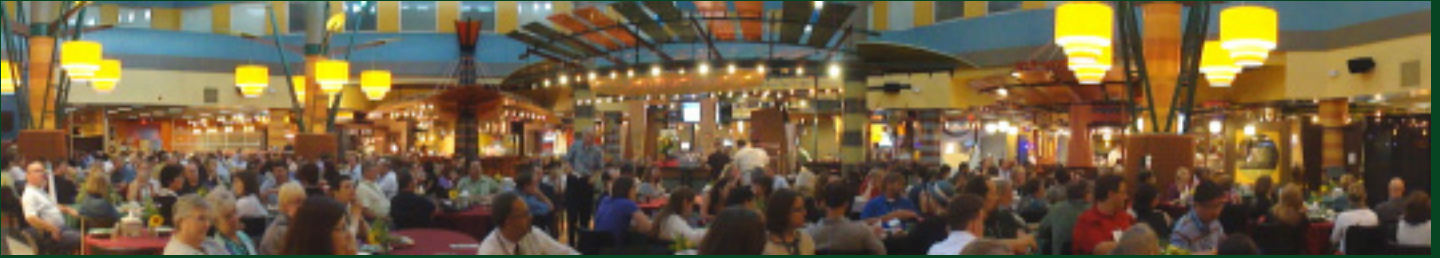
COMMUNITY

Over the last three years CUR has continued to grow and flourish. We are a very successful organization, characterized by a vital and engaged membership base. With more than 10,000 engaged individual members, the organization is the voice of the undergraduate research community. The number of institutional members continues to grow, as the organization moves beyond its traditional member base of predominantly undergraduate institutions to include more research universities, community colleges, and minority serving institutions. As the organization continues to represent a broad swath of the higher-education community the impact of its more strategic advocacy efforts have been heard on Capitol Hill and in the White House. The organization is growing in all directions. The depth and breadth of educational institutes, conferences, and webinars has expanded, with most divisions now offering discipline specific institutes, along with learning opportunities focusing on the organization's guiding strategic pillars.



Join us on our journey...

CUR Conference 2012- The College of New Jersey



ENGAGEMENT

The Council on Undergraduate Research is a grassroots organization designed for active member participation. CUR's volunteers work with CUR staff to produce many of its programs (Program Review services, CUR Fellows Awards, Posters on the Hill), organize its meetings (CUR Institutes, National Conference workshops) and develop its publications (such as the *CUR Quarterly* and *How To Series*).



CUR Conference 2014- Washington D.C.



The mission of the Council on Undergraduate Research is to support and promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research, scholarship, and creative activities. CUR and its affiliated colleges, universities, and individuals share a focus on providing undergraduate research opportunities for faculty and students at institutions that serve undergraduate students. CUR believes that faculty members enhance their teaching and contribution to society by remaining active in research and by involving undergraduates in research and students enhance their learning through research. CUR's leadership works with agencies and foundations to enhance research opportunities for faculty and students. CUR provides support for faculty and student development. Our publications and outreach activities are designed to share successful models and strategies for establishing and institutionalizing undergraduate research programs. We assist administrators, faculty members, and students in improving and assessing the research environment at their institutions. CUR also provides information on the importance of undergraduate research to state legislatures, private foundations, government agencies, and the U.S. Congress. CUR welcomes faculty and administrators from all academic institutions and all academic disciplines. Our primary advocacy is in support of faculty and students at the undergraduate level. CUR achieves its vision through efforts of its membership as organized in a divisional structure that includes arts and humanities, biology, chemistry, engineering, geosciences, health sciences, mathematics and computer science, physics and astronomy, psychology, social sciences, undergraduate research program directors, and an at-large division that serves administrators and other disciplines.