



2023

YEAR IN

REVIEW

We are CUR.

2023 Highlights

- Passed updated [By-Laws](#) and a governance modernization
- Launched an updated [CUR Fellows Award](#) call and review process
- Received \$50,000 from Research Corporation of Science Advancement (RSCA) to maintain the future of the [Silvia Ronco Innovative Mentor Award](#)
- Wrapped up the [NSF Transformations Grant](#) + anxiously awaiting their published book in 2024
- Established [SPUR](#) as a fully electronic published journal to increase sustainability and reach to our members
- Successfully launch of a new [CUR website](#)
- The [STR](#) class of 2023-2024 participants were able to meet representatives in person on Capitol Hill for the first time since 2019
- Represented CUR at the celebration of World CUR 2023 with one of our own Board of Directors
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire hosted the first NCUR in person since 2019
- Released [Recognizing Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, & Creative Inquiry as a Career-Readiness Tool](#)



CUR Community,
As I reflect on the past year, I am humbled and inspired by the dedication and accomplishments of our vibrant undergraduate research community. The commitment you have shown to CUR's mission and the transformative impact of your work with students exemplify the core values that drive our organization.

Throughout the year, the CUR National Office staff embraced new challenges and took on added responsibilities, always with the unwavering focus on putting our members first. This dedication has not only propelled us forward but has also positioned us for continued success in the ever-evolving landscape of undergraduate research.

The collective spirit of our community was evident in the enthusiasm with which you embraced new ideas, engaged with friends and colleagues, and expanded the footprint of undergraduate research. The strength, growth, and knowledge-building within our community showcase the remarkable strides we have made together.

In the following pages, you will find a testament to the collaborative efforts that have enhanced our community's fabric. From innovative initiatives to the support and camaraderie you provide one another, each contribution plays a crucial role in advancing the field of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member for your unwavering commitment and relentless pursuit of excellence in undergraduate research. Your contributions are the cornerstone of our organization's success, and I am privileged to be a part of such a dedicated community.

As I look ahead, I am excited about the possibilities that the future holds for CUR and the broader undergraduate research community. Together, we will continue to champion the values that define our mission, fostering a community of collaboration, growth, and shared success.


Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the advancement of undergraduate research. I look forward to another year of collective achievements and meaningful impact.



Yours in service,
Lindsay Currie
Lindsay Currie, CAE
CUR Executive Officer


“CUR offered me the guidance to lead my organization, at this point, from an organization where people were establishing offices to mature ways of thinking of undergraduate research as a high impact practice. They gave me a network of people, men + women across the country, that I learned from and worked with to be able to think of not only what we were doing as an institutions but think nationally about the model of undergraduate research.

Bethany Usher, PhD
CUR Board President, 2023-2024
Radford University
Member since 2002



We learned...

CUR helps me as a faculty member become a strong mentor, but it also has been an invaluable tool to get my students involved in research and disseminating their research in impactful ways.



Brian Lagotte
Social Sciences Division
University of Kansas Center for Undergraduate Research
Member since 2019

My most challenging lesson learned is getting others on board about how important it is for students with low-grade point averages (GPA) to engage with a mentor in undergraduate research. It took marketing students' outstanding research and discussing the percentage change in their GPA after conducting research with a mentor.

Doreen Sams
Social Sciences Division
Georgia College & State University
Member since 2012




Facts don't change beliefs - this is hard for all agents of change or researchers, but it is true. Whether it impacts the appointment, a single student, or an entire program, it continues to be a challenge and a tough lesson.

Lance Barton
Biology Division
Board of Directors
UNC Charlotte
Member since 2003




CUR not only provided me with the professional development and guidance that I needed to navigate success at a PUI, but also provided me with tangible resources to help promote the success of my students. CUR has not only bolstered the trajectory of my career from Assistant Professor to now Full Professor, but it has also provided NCUR as a platform for my students to hone their skills in a professionally safe, supportive space.



Heather Tarleton
Health Sciences Division
Loyola Marymount University
Member since 1998

I met up with a student that I mentored probably close to 20 years ago. She has since earned her PhD in materials science and is now a manager at a semiconductor company. She told me that she would not have gone to graduate school if it wasn't for me. Besides being flattering, it reminded me that what we do matters so we need to do it well.

Winnie Dong
Engineering Division
California State Polytechnic University - Pomona
Member since 2020



FUN fact

INSPIRING

WHEN ASKED TO DESCRIBE 2023 IN ONE WORD, INSPIRING WAS THE MOST COMMONLY SHARED ANSWER.

We are leading.

BOARD OF Directors

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Radford University



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University of Central Oklahoma

NATIONAL Office



A group photo of the National Office team, consisting of seven individuals standing together and smiling.

Jodi Wilson
Coordinator, Customer Experience

Lindsay Currie
Executive Officer

Natalie Jones
Manager, Customer + Volunteer Experience

Todd Waggoner
Manager, Communications + Content

Pam Dodge
Director, Finance + Operations

Elizabeth Moris
Director, Brand Engagement

Heather Wakefield
Sr. Director, Program Strategy, Development + Design

DIVISION Chairs



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Amy Woodbury Tease



AT-LARGE
Graeme Harper



BIOLOGY
Michael Wolyniak



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Joseph Reczek



EDUCATION
Suzanne Lindt



ENGINEERING
Aaron Sakulich



GEOSCIENCES
Allison Beaugard-Schwartz



HEALTH SCIENCES
Kelly Massey



MATHEMATICAL, COMPUTING + STATISTICAL SCIENCES
Haseeb Kazi



PHYSICS + ASTRONOMY
Carol Hood



PSYCHOLOGY
Karen Gunther



SOCIAL SCIENCES
Doreen Sams



UR PROGRAMS
Tim Raines

13

OF DIVISIONS

246

OF DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES

GOVERNANCE Modernization

In 2021, the Governance Modernization Project was launched under the guide of Past-President Silvia Ronco with the goal to develop a governance and volunteer structure that would serve CUR and the undergraduate research community of the future. The project's task force was made up of a mix of CUR leaders who worked with a governance consultant to survey volunteers, host focus groups, conduct research, and propose a new plan for CUR's governance structure. As a result of this process, updates to the Constitution and By-laws were proposed, Town Hall meetings discussed the changes, and a vote was cast in May 2023. With more than the required two-thirds majority vote, the Bylaws were passed and in June 2023, the governance structure started to evolve. There is still much to implement in the coming election cycles, but the modernized structure leads to a more sustainable volunteering system that will benefit both the organization and the community together.

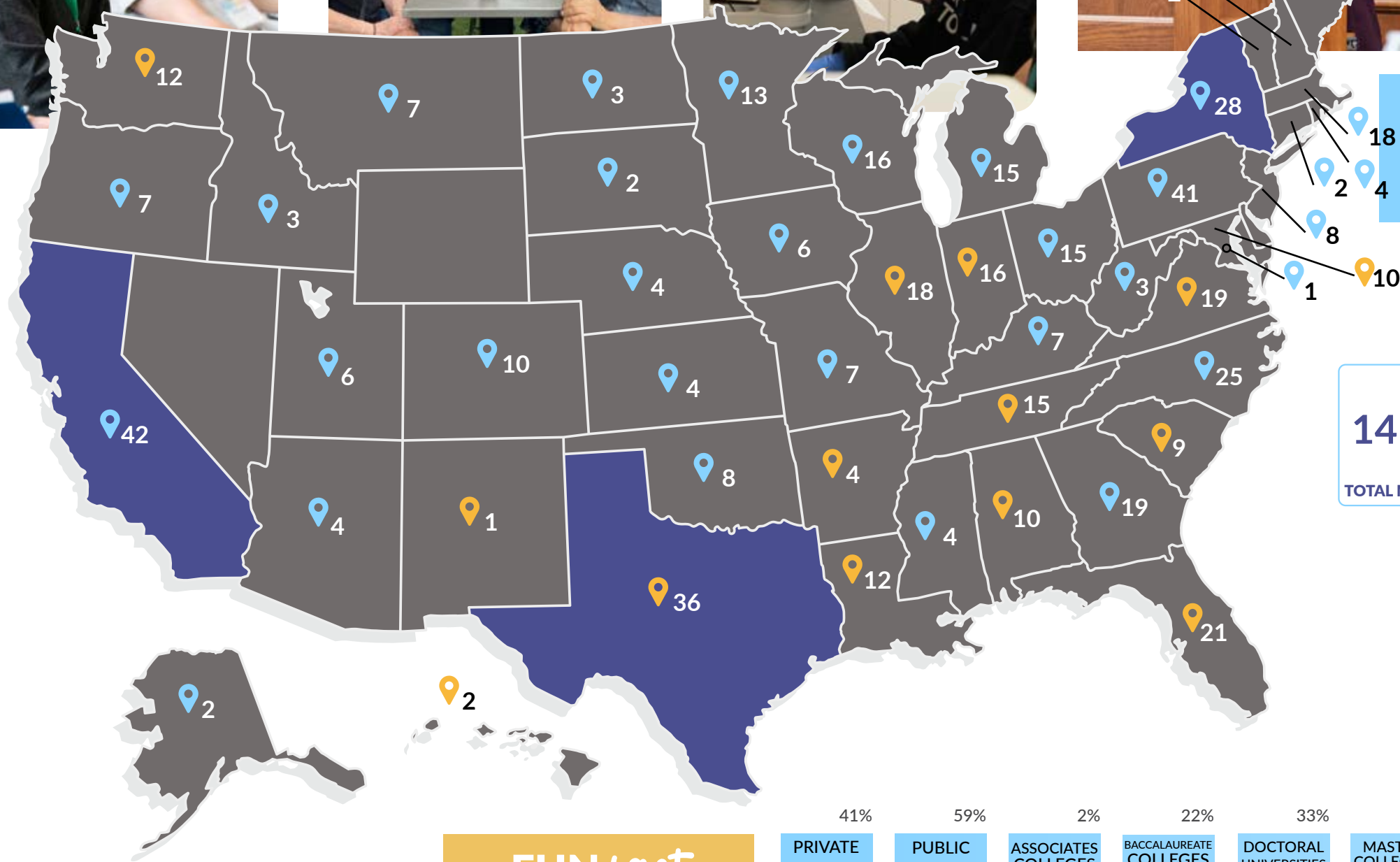
COMMITTEES + Taskforces

- ADVOCACY + STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
- ANNUAL CONFERENCE KNOWLEDGE + COMMUNITY BUILDING ADVISORY GROUP
- AURA AWARDS COMMITTEE
- CAREER READINESS IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP
- COEUR MODERNIZATION WORKING GROUP
- CUR FELLOWS AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE
- CUR FELLOWS AWARD TASKFORCE
- CUR-GOLDWATER FACULTY MENTOR SELECTION COMMITTEE
- DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION COMMITTEE
- EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD
- FACILITATING METHODOLOGICAL DIVERSITY + INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION TASK FORCE
- FINANCE COMMITTEE
- FORESIGHT GUIDANCE + RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP
- NATIONAL + DIVISIONAL NOMINATIONS + LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES
- NCUR OVERSIGHT (NOC) COMMITTEE
- PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE
- SILVIA RONCO SELECTION COMMITTEE

LOOKING TO BECOME A THOUGHT LEADER? CHECK OUT [CUR.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://cur.org/volunteer)

186

OF MEMBERS WITHIN COMMITTEES + TASKFORCES



We are community.

INDIVIDUALS engaged through membership



MEMBERSHIPS in other countries

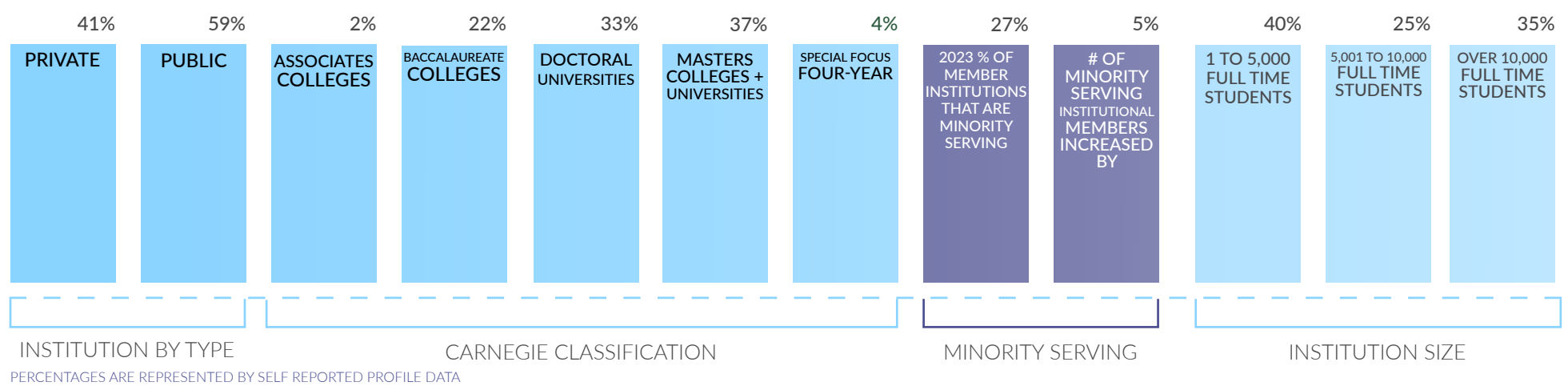


Our members are...

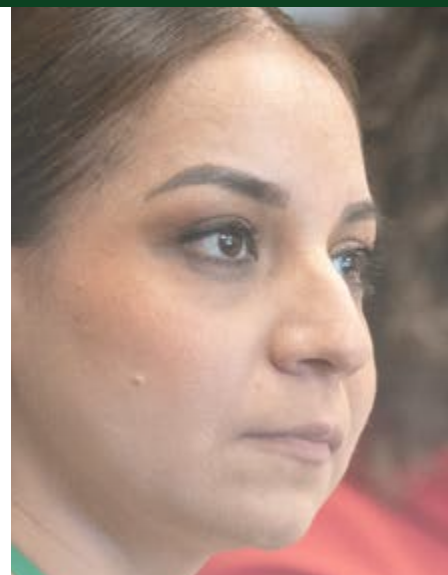
- MEMBERED INSTITUTIONS BY STATE (DATA IS AS OF DECEMBER 2023)
- INCREASED NUMBER OF MEMBERED INSTITUTIONS SINCE 2022
- LARGEST POPULATION OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (DATA IS AS OF DECEMBER 2023)

FUN fact

1300+
THE NATIONAL OFFICE HELPED
1300+ INDIVIDUALS JOIN ENHANCED
INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS IN 2023



We are developing.



JANUARY

JAN 3 | MEMBERSHIP SURVEY
JAN 23 | MCS DIVISION SEMINAR
How Do You Become A Math Superhero?

"This was one of the most useful things I've done in the past 5 years. It was particularly helpful coming out of COVID and trying to get my research agenda back. Thank you."

- Participant from 2023 Dialogues

FEBRUARY

FEB 13 | MCS DIVISION SEMINAR
2022 MCS Mentor of the Year Award Presentation
FEB 14 - 17 | CUR DIALOGUES
FEB 18 | SPUR ISSUE RELEASE
SPUR Winter 2022 Issue



MARCH

MAR 13 | MCS DIVISION SEMINAR
How to Get Ready for Your Summer REU
MAR 29 | INTERACTIVE EXPERT SEMINAR
ChatGPT is Only the Beginning: Key Questions for Educational Professionals in the Age of AI

"As a coordinator of undergraduate research at my institution, I felt it was vital to attend with my students who were selected for the conference. It was such a joy to see the energy and intellect displayed by all of these young minds. The FAN sessions also provided me with excellent models to adapt to in my own programs."

- Faculty Participant from 2023 NCUR

APRIL

APR 10 | MCS DIVISION SEMINAR
How Do I Get Ready to go to an REU and What Should I Expect?
APR 12-14 | NCUR 2023
At University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
APR 17-21 | UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK
APR 25-26 | STR 2022-23
Spring Showcase



MAY

MAY 8 | MCS DIVISION SEMINAR
2023 MCS Mentor of the Year Award presentation
MAY 25 | SPUR ISSUE RELEASE
SPUR Spring 2023 Issue

"I can't pick just one memorable moment. I participated in the networking event during the virtual portion, and that was great. During the in-person, one-on-one conversations on common topics to both people were great."

- Participant from 2023 ConnectUR

JUNE

JUNE 7 | ONLINE INTENSIVE
Set Up Your Submission for Post-award Success & Manage It Moving Forward
JUNE 13 | CUR AWARD CELEBRATION
JUNE 14-15 | CUR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
JUNE 20 | WORKSHOP
Beginning a Research Program in an Experimental Science Discipline at a PUI
JUNE 21 | WORKSHOP
Building Equity-centered URSCI Programs
JUNE 22-23 | ONLINE CONNECTUR
JUNE 26-28 | ONSITE CONNECTUR

JULY

JUL 13-17 | INPERSON INTENSIVE
Proposal Writing Institute

EVENT highlights

1500+

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
ACROSS ALL EVENTS

4400+

OVERALL PARTICIPANTS
ACROSS ALL EVENTS

3300+

TOTAL SPEAKERS
ACROSS ALL EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

SEPT 11 | CUR CONVERSATION
SPUR Office Hours with Editor-in-Chief
SEPT 20 | INTERACTIVE EXPERT SEMINAR
Creating Accessible Activities: Making Your Work Accessible for Individuals with Disabilities
SEPT 22 | ONLINE INTENSIVE
Learn to Leverage Research & Creative Inquiry as a Career-Readiness Tool

OCTOBER

OCT 4 | ONLINE INTENSIVE
What's on Track and What's Breaking Down? Doing an Implementation Assessment to Get Your Program Chugging Towards Its Goals
OCT 13 | STR 2023-24 KICK OFF ONLINE
Getting Inspired, Setting Goals
OCT 18 | ONLINE INTENSIVE
Centering DEI: Practical Tools for Sustaining - Transformative Racial Equity in Undergraduate Research Programs
OCT 26 | STR 2023-24 WORKSHOP
Connecting + Building Relationships with Policymakers

NOVEMBER

NOV 1 | SPUR JOURNAL PROPOSALS DEADLINE
Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Inquiry as a Driver of Career Readiness
NOV 5-6 | STR 2023-24 ONSITE HILL MEETINGS
NOV 8 | SPUR ISSUE RELEASE
SPUR Fall 2023 Issue
NOV 15 | MCS DIVISION SEMINAR
Transforming Institutional Practices through Inclusive UR in Data Science + Emerging Technologies for Solving the Grand Challenges

DECEMBER

DEC 1 | NOMINATIONS DEADLINE
Board of Directors
DEC 1 | STR 2023-24 WORKSHOP
Engaging with Government Agencies
DEC 7 | DIVISION COMMUNITY
Biology Division launched online community
DEC 8 | NCUR 2024 DEADLINE
Student + Faculty Abstract submissions
DEC 15 | STR 2023-24 WORKSHOP
Office Hours with Facilitators

WANT TO KEEP UP ON ALL THE HAPPENINGS WITHIN CUR? MAKE SURE TO VISIT OUR CALENDAR AT [CUR.ORG/EVENTS](https://cur.org/events)

DR. SHANA STODDARD
Rhodes College

2023 SILVIA RONCO INNOVATIVE MENTOR AWARDEE

SANDRA GARCIA CERVANTES
San Diego State University

2023 TRIMMER TRAVEL AWARDEE

DR. JOHN GARRISON
Grinnell College

2023 ARTS + HUMANITIES FACULTY MENTOR ENDOWMENT AWARDEE

DR. JANNON FUCHS
University of North Texas

2023 CUR GOLDWATER FACULTY MENTOR AWARDEE

2022 CAMPUS AURA RECIPIENT

We are engaging.

COMMUNITY engagement

408

FIRST TIME COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS

989

FIRST TIME COMMUNITY LOGINS

SEPT

MONTH CUR LAUNCHED NEW WEBSITE

152K

NEW WEBSITE VIEWS

FUN fact

8k+

THE NATIONAL OFFICE ANSWERED OVER 8,000 SUPPORT EMAILS + PHONE CALLS IN 2023.

SPUR + publications

855

TOTAL PUBLICATIONS SOLD

200

TOTAL DOWNLOADS OF FREE BOOKS

2

OF OFFICE HOURS WITH EDITOR IN-CHIEF

2349

OVERALL ELECTRONIC VIEWS FROM SEPT - DEC

152

TOTAL AUTHORS + REVIEWERS

PUBLICATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP + PRACTICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL

SOCIAL MEDIA stats

538

NEW FOLLOWERS ACROSS ALL PLATFORMS

52K

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

DIVISIONAL awards

23

TOTAL AWARDS

60

TOTAL RECIPIENTS

SPUR Best Article Honoree

SPUR, Volume 6, No 3, Spring 2023

Benefiting Historically Excluded Student Populations Through Targeted Undergraduate Research Programming

Jaclyn Chastain, Santiago Luaces, Melodie Eichbauer, Charles Gunnels

The article selected as the Best Paper for the 2022-2023 publication year stands out for its meticulous evaluation of the WiSER program's impact on historically excluded students.

WINTER
Released February 2023

SPRING
Released May 2023

FALL
Released November 2023

NEW WEBSITE
Released September 2023



CHECK LIST FOR Shutdown

Through members, the community, and our advocacy partners, CUR continues to advocate for undergraduate research at all levels. Several times during 2023, and we anticipate possibly in early 2024, there has been a risk of a US federal government shutdown. In an effort to support the community, which would be impacted by any halting of operations, CUR developed a check-list for faculty and institutions to be better prepared.

HILL MEETINGS *Galore*

During 2023, two Scholars Transforming Through Research (STR) advocacy programs occurred. The class of 2022-2023 hosted their Spring Showcase virtually, inviting local and federal representatives from their area to participate, listen, and interact with STR participants while they presented the importance of research and their specific findings. With a new layout of training materials and a focus of in-person Hill meetings in November, the 2023-2024 class was able to schedule multiple meetings per state with various representative offices; overall, increasing awareness for the impact of undergraduate research to federal representatives.

SPREADING THE *Word*

National Office staff were accepted to speak at the American Society for Association Executives Annual Conference in August 2023 on the making of the STR Program, the new way of looking at advocacy, and the success CUR has seen from the changes that have been implemented thus far.

CONNECTING the *dots*



In March 2023, CUR released its first position paper entitled, *Recognizing Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, & Creative Inquiry as a Career-Readiness Tool*, authored by Jeanne Mekolichick. In her well circulated statement, Jeanne focused on the eight NACE competencies connecting them to undergraduate research and its successes.

TRANSFORMING *through grants*

The CUR Transformations Project was an NSF-funded project with far-reaching implications for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) student success. The overarching goal of this project was to work intensively with 12 institutions and 24 departments over a sustained period to conduct fundamental research on student, faculty, departmental, and disciplinary influences on the process of integrating and scaffolding undergraduate research experiences throughout the curriculum. After six years, the CUR Transformations Principal Investigators will be sharing what they learned in a publication to be released in 2024.

“

“This [STR] program was a great way for my team and I to learn how to integrate our passions into the world at large, and the connections we made here will help guide us into the future!”

-STR Participant 2022-2023

CUR IMPLEMENTED
A CUSTOMIZED
SPONSORSHIP +
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
INCREASING AFFILIATE
MEMBERSHIP + NON DUES
REVENUE

FUN *fact*

MAY +
DECEMBER

...WERE THE TWO BUSIEST
MONTHS OF 2023 FOR
SUPPORT. THESE MONTHS
ALONE GENERATED OVER
1400 EMAILS + OVER 150
PHONE CALLS.

We are advocating.

FORAGER ONE
Event sponsor since 2020

INFOREADY
Event sponsor since 2022