2023
YEAR IN REVIEW
We are CUR.
2023 Highlights

- Passed updated By-Laws and a governance modernization
- Launched an updated call and review process
- Received $50,000 from Research Corporation of Science Advancement (RSCA) to maintain the future of the NSF Transformations Grant
- Successfully launched a new Curriculum of Science Advancement (RSCA) to maintain the future of the CUR Fellows
- Successfully launched a new NSCF Fellows
- The class of 2022-23 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 hosted the first NCUR in person since 2019
- Released a featured Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Inquiry Guide to the community

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 an 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 dedication to the mission of CUR. 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 CUR Fellows, and I am privileged to be a part of such a dedicated community.

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, CAE
CUR Executive Officer

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

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.

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

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

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 GPAs 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 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
Loyola Marymount University
Member since 2002

We learned...

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

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 GPAs 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 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
Loyola Marymount University
Member since 2002

We learned...

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

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 GPAs 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

We learned...

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

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 GPAs 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

We learned...

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

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 GPAs 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

We learned...

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

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 GPAs 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

We learned...

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

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 GPAs 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.
In 2023, 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.
Our members are...

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

1300+ INDIVIDUALS JOIN ENHANCED INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS IN 2023

FUN fact

14155 TOTAL MEMBERS
535 INDIVIDUAL
13620 INSTITUTIONAL
10 AFFILIATE
55 SYSTEM

INDIVIDUALS engaged through membership

MEMBERSHIPS in other countries
Gold indicates Institutional Membership

AUSTRALIA
BELGIUM
CANADA
CHINA
EGYPT
EL SALVADOR
GERMANY
JAPAN
LITHUANIA
NETHERLANDS
SINGAPORE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
USA
UNITED KINGDOM

14 TOTAL

INSTITUTION BY TYPE

PRIVATE
PUBLIC
ASSOCIATES COLLEGES
BACHELOR'S COLLEGES
DOCTORAL UNIVERSITIES
MASTERS COLLEGES + UNIVERSITIES
SIX-YEAR FOUR-YEAR

INSTITUTION SIZE

2023 % OF MEMBER INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE MINORITY SERVING
# OF MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS INCREASED BY
1 TO 5,000 FULL TIME STUDENTS
5,01 TO 10,000 FULL TIME STUDENTS
OVER 10,000 FULL TIME STUDENTS

PERCENTAGES ARE REPRESENTED BY SELF REPORTED PROFILE DATA

The National Office Helped 1300+ Individuals Join Enhanced Institutional Memberships in 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>JANUARY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 3</td>
<td>MEMBERSHIP SURVEY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 23</td>
<td>MCS DIVISION SEMINAR</td>
<td>How Do You Become A Math Superhero?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEBRUARY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 13</td>
<td>MCS DIVISION SEMINAR</td>
<td>2022 MCS Mentor of the Year Award Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 14 - 17</td>
<td>CUR DIALOGUES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEB 18</td>
<td>SPUR ISSUE RELEASE</td>
<td>SPUR Winter 2022 Issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MARCH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 13</td>
<td>MCS DIVISION SEMINAR</td>
<td>How to Get Ready for Your Summer REU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 29</td>
<td>INTERACTIVE EXPERT SEMINAR</td>
<td>ChatGPT is Only the Beginning: Key Questions for Educational Professionals in the Age of AI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APRIL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 10</td>
<td>MCS DIVISION SEMINAR</td>
<td>How Do I Get Ready to go to an REU and What Should I Expect?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 12-14</td>
<td>NCUR 2023</td>
<td>At University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 17-21</td>
<td>UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 25-26</td>
<td>STR 2022-23 Spring Showcase</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 8</td>
<td>MCS DIVISION SEMINAR</td>
<td>2023 MCS Mentor of the Year Award Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 25</td>
<td>SPUR ISSUE RELEASE</td>
<td>SPUR Summer 2023 Issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JUNE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 7</td>
<td>ONLINE INTENSIVE</td>
<td>Set Up Your Submission for Post-award Success &amp; Manage It Moving Forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 13</td>
<td>CUR AWARD CELEBRATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 14-15</td>
<td>CUR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 20</td>
<td>WORKSHOP</td>
<td>Beginning a Research Program in an Experimental Science Discipline at a PUI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 21</td>
<td>WORKSHOP</td>
<td>Building Equity-centered URSCI Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 22-23</td>
<td>ONLINE CONNECTUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUN 26-28</td>
<td>ONSITE CONNECTUR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>JULY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUL 13-17</td>
<td>INPERSON INTENSIVE</td>
<td>Proposal Writing Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SEPTEMBER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 11</td>
<td>CUR CONVERSATION</td>
<td>SPUR Office Hours with Editor-in-Chief</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 20</td>
<td>INTERACTIVE EXPERT SEMINAR</td>
<td>Creating Accessible Activities: Making Your Work Accessible for Individuals with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEPT 22</td>
<td>ONLINE INTENSIVE</td>
<td>Learn to Leverage Research &amp; Creative Inquiry as a Career Readiness Tool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OCTOBER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 4</td>
<td>ONLINE INTENSIVE</td>
<td>What’s On Track and What’s Breaking Down? Using an Implementation Assessment to Get Your Program Chugging Towards Its Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 13</td>
<td>STR 2023-24 KICK OFF ONLINE</td>
<td>Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Inquiry as a Driver of Career Readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 18</td>
<td>ONLINE INTENSIVE</td>
<td>Centering DEI Practical Tools for Sustaining Transformative Racial Equity in Undergraduate Research Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCT 26</td>
<td>STR 2023-24 WORKSHOP</td>
<td>Connecting + Building Relationships with Policymakers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOVEMBER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 1</td>
<td>SPUR JOURNAL PROPOSALS DEADLINE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 4-6</td>
<td>STR 2023-24 ONSITE HILL MEETINGS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 8</td>
<td>SPUR ISSUE RELEASE</td>
<td>SPUR Fall 2023 Issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOV 15</td>
<td>MCS DIVISION SEMINAR</td>
<td>Transforming Institutional Practices Through Inclusive U in Data Science + Emerging Technologies for Solving the Grand Challenges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DECEMBER</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 1</td>
<td>NOMINATIONS DEADLINE</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 1</td>
<td>STR 2023-24 WORKSHOP</td>
<td>Engaging with Government Agencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 7</td>
<td>DIVISION COMMUNITY</td>
<td>Biology Division launched online community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 8</td>
<td>NCUR 2024 DEADLINE</td>
<td>Student + Faculty Abstract submissions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC 15</td>
<td>STR 2023-24 WORKSHOP</td>
<td>Office Hours with Facilitators</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS ACROSS ALL EVENTS**

1500+

**TOTAL SPEAKERS ACROSS ALL EVENTS**

3300+

**OVERALL PARTICIPANTS ACROSS ALL EVENTS**

4400+
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
- 8k+ Fun Fact: The National Office answered over 8,000 support emails + phone calls in 2023.

**SPUR + publications**

- Total Publications Sold: 855
- Total Downloads of Free Books: 200
- # of Office Hours with Editor in Chief: 2
- Overall Electronic Views from Sept - Dec: 2349
- Total Authors + Reviewers: 152

**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.
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**

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 sharing what they learned in a publication to be released in 2024.

“[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

**FUN fact**

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