



COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

## **2023-2024 Elections**

### **Education Division: Councilor Slate**

**Position Purpose:** The CUR Council is a multidisciplinary body providing advisory input to the Board, so they have a broader perspective when making resource investment decisions. The Council serves in a communication capacity, surfacing key items arising from the Divisions, bridging the insight of the Division to the work of CUR as a whole, and serving as one means of information and resource dissemination from the central organization to the Divisions and members. The CUR Council is a newly developed body of volunteer leaders for this election cycle.

#### **Needed Qualifications:**

- Strong communication skills
- Previously served as a Division Councilor is a plus, but not required
- Membership with CUR
- Can not be serving concurrently as a Division Representative

*There are 2 individuals running.*

*You may vote for both candidates presented to be elected as councilors for this division.*

Candidate information is presented on the following pages. Click on each candidate name below to be taken to their Information In the document.

- [Jacob English](#)
- [Tina Zecher](#)

# Jacob English, The George Washington University

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## *Education Division Nominee*

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

#### **Describe your leadership experience both within CUR and extramural.**

I have held roles as a higher education administrator for six years. I've held positions as the director of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships at the George State University Honors College and the assistant dean of students at the University of the District of Columbia. Currently, I am the director of the Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research at the George Washington University. I developed as a thoughtful and values-driven leader through these roles. I have also benefitted from professional organization-specific leadership positions in higher education. I joined CUR in 2014 and was selected as a Health Science Division Councilor in 2016. During that time, I served as the vice-chair of the DEI committee. In 2021, I was selected as an Education Division representative. As an Education Division representative, I am on the membership subcommittee and the DEI committee. From 2019-2023, I served on the board of the National Association of Fellowships Advisors and co-founded and chaired the DEI Committee.

#### **How will your skills help the Council successfully uphold its charge?**

At GW, I lead efforts to 1) introduce students and alumni to undergraduate and post-baccalaureate research and fellowship opportunities and 2) provide mentoring and scholar development through the process. I am a diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and accessibility scholar. I received my doctoral training in the Educational Psychology program paired with the Certificate in Quantitative Research in Education and the Certificate of Excellence in Teaching and Learning from Georgia State University. Taking an anti-deficit approach, my research, writings, and practice focus on identifying and mitigating barriers to education for college students. My work highlights the necessity of focusing on social mobility, intersectionality, and sense of belonging in learning spaces to develop digital and global citizens. My work has been published in the Global Impact Exchange, the Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council, and the Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics.

### **NOMINEE ABBREVIATED CV**

An abbreviated CV highlighting the candidate's accomplishments with respect to undergraduate research is available on the next page.

## **Jacob Alan English, Ph.D.**

### *Abridged Curriculum Vitae*

#### **Education**

Ph.D. 2019, Georgia State University, Educational Psychology

#### **Professional Credentials and Certifications**

- Diversity and Inclusion Certificate, Cornell University, 2021
- Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Research in Education, Georgia State University, 2019
- Certificate of Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Georgia State University, 2019

#### **Professional Experience**

##### *Higher Education*

**Director, Center for Undergraduate Fellowships and Research (CUFR), The George Washington University (2023-Present)**

*Key Accomplishments:* Created and manage the Undergraduate Fellowships and Research Students Ambassadors group

**Assistant Dean of Students, University of the District of Columbia, College of Arts and Sciences (2022-2023)**

*Key Accomplishments:* Negotiated a partnership between UDC and the Global Fairness Initiative to secure two dedicated internship/research opportunities for UDC students through the Sapin Fellowship

**Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, Georgia State University Honors College (2018-2022)**

*Key Accomplishments:* Mentored Georgia State's first Rhodes Scholarship finalist through the application process in 2019 and successfully mentored Georgia State's first Marshall Scholarship recipient in 2020

**Director, Honors College Black Male Initiative, Georgia State University Honors College (2018-2022)**

*Key Accomplishments:* Reestablished the Georgia State University Black Male Initiative in 2018 (My Brother's Keeper), after five years of dormancy, through a successful grant proposal submitted to the University System of Georgia

**Adjunct Instructor, Georgia State University Department of Learning Sciences (2016-2019)**

*Key Accomplishments:* Received the 2019 Outstanding Teacher in Educational Psychology Award; Course selected as a model for other EPY 2040 (Science of Teaching and Learning) instructors

**Research Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor, Georgia State University Honors College (2013-2018)**

*Key Accomplishments:* Launched the college's first comprehensive undergraduate research program by leveraging existing partnerships and forging new relationships across campus to enhance existing programs like the University Assistantship Program and the Honors Thesis Project

##### *Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Leadership*

- Founding co-chair of the National Association of Fellowships Advisors' Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2020-Present)

- Founding co-chair of the Honors College Committee for the Advancement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2020-2022)
- Member, Georgia State University Diversity Council (2020-2022)

### **Selected Scholarly Productivity**

#### *Grants Awarded*

Scott, H., English, J.A., Jackson, R., & Vaught, S. (2022). Atlanta Global Research & Education Collaborative Grant in partnership with Agnes Scott University, Kennesaw State University, Morehouse College, University of the District of Columbia, and Delta Air Lines. *Project Title: Supporting Black Students at Home and Abroad*. Funded: Fall 2021-Spring 2022, Amount: \$12,000

English, J.A. (2020) U.S. Department of State's Increase and Diversify Education Abroad for U.S. Students Grant. *Project Title: Increasing African American Male Participation in Study Abroad*. Funded: Fall 2020-Spring 2021, Amount funded: \$33,977

#### *Publications*

English, J.A., Scott, H., Coley, M., Vaught, S., & Jackson, R. (2023). Together we fly higher – Advancing equity in global education and the workforce: A case for academy and industry partnerships. *The Global Impact Exchange*, (Winter 2023).

English, J.A., & Wan, C. (Spring 2018). Undergraduate research and student success: A model for cultural competency as a mediator. *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*, 1(3).

English, J.A., & Kruger, A.C. (2016). Appreciative advising: Six phases to mitigate stereotype threat among student-athletes. *Journal of Appreciative Education*, 3(1), 18-29.

#### *Professional Presentations*

English, J.A., McCrary, J., & Buis, E. (2021, June) *Who's in the Room?: A Collaborative Approach to Ensure Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Undergraduate Research*. Oral presentation at the Council on Undergraduate Research Centering Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Conference, Virtual.

McCrary, V. & English, J.A. (2018, July). *More buzzwords in higher education? Diversity and Inclusion in Undergraduate Research*. Accepted workshop session at the CUR Biennial Conference 2018, Arlington, VA.

### **Selected Professional Membership**

- National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (2021-Present)
- National Association of Fellowships Advisors (2017-Present)
  - Executive Board (2019-Present)
  - Founding Co-chair, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2021-Present)
- Council on Undergraduate Research (2014-present)
  - CUR Councilor, Education Division (2021-Present)
  - CUR Institutional Liaison (2016-2022)
  - CUR Councilor, Health Sciences Division (2016-2019)
  - Vice Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Task Force (2016-2018)

### **Selected Editorial Appointments**

- Reviewer, Council on Undergraduate Research Posters on the Hill (2017,2016, 2015)

# Tina Zecher, Northern Arizona University

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## *Education Division Nominee*

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

#### **Describe your leadership experience both within CUR and extramural.**

Since 2017, I have been an active member in the CUR community. In 2019, I was elected to serve as a councilor in the undergraduate research program director division and have served as a representative for the education division since 2020. I am currently the Vice-Chair for the division. In addition to active participation as a representative, I have given multiple presentations related to best practices and program development in undergraduate research at connectUR conferences as well as other professional conferences, such as ASEE and AEA. I am currently pursuing my Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with my research focused on understanding and dismantling barriers to research, particularly for students from historically marginalized communities. As the leader of undergraduate research at Northern Arizona University, I have been able to expand our program and resources by more than 300% in the last two years by assessing the impact of our work and communicating that to upper administration and external partners.

#### **How will your skills help the Council successfully uphold its charge?**

My involvement in CUR over the past five years has helped me gain a strong understanding of the mission, priorities, and benefits of the organization. I have demonstrated a steady commitment to contributing to our division. I approach our work with an open mind and value the various perspectives brought to discussions and feel I could represent the needs and values of the education division to the board as well as effectively communicate the direction of the organization to our division representatives and members.

### **NOMINEE ABBREVIATED CV**

An abbreviated CV highlighting the candidate's accomplishments with respect to undergraduate research is available on the next page.

# Tina Zecher



602.725.5188



[linkedin.com/in/tina-zecher](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tina-zecher)



[Christina.zecher@nau.edu](mailto:Christina.zecher@nau.edu)

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Highly motivated Service Professional with 9+ years of experience in K-20 education and 7+ years in small business. Increased student participation in research programs by 50% and secured over \$355k in donor funds to expand current offerings. Formed collaborative connections with faculty and administration across NAU's colleges and Student Success programs to develop co-curricular offerings and promote research opportunities.

## RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY | NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY | FLAGSTAFF, AZ DIRECTOR, MAY 2023-PRESENT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, JULY 2019 – APRIL 2020, JUNE 2022-MAY 2023

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, SR., JULY 2017 – JULY 2019

- Advanced the mission of expanding undergraduate research at NAU through the promotion of programs to students across disciplines and collaboration with faculty and administration in all colleges
- Oversaw and managed budgetary and planning aspects of seven programs, including the Hooper Undergraduate Research Award, Interns-to-Scholars, and the Undergraduate Symposium
- Engaged in strategic planning for the department, including expansion of existing programs and the development of new initiatives, such as the Research Assistant Mentoring Program and Jean Schuler Research Mini-Grants
- Created funding proposals and collaborate with NAU Foundation to secure donors, raising over \$55,000 in 2018
- Administered formative and summative mixed methods assessments to all participants in department to determine areas for program improvements and report outcomes to university administrators
- Supervised professional staff and students and served as an advisor to the Student Undergraduate Research Club

### CENTER FOR SCIENCE TEACHING AND LEARNING | NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY | FLAGSTAFF, AZ EVALUATION ASSOCIATE, APRIL 2020 – JUNE 2022

- Collaborate with STEM faculty to design, submit and implement the evaluation and educational research components of externally funded STEM Education grants
- Write, report, and disseminate evaluation findings to a variety of audiences at local, state and national levels, including but not limited to project stakeholders, funding agencies and evaluation professionals
- Coordinate and submit IRB applications for the protection of human subjects as appropriate
- Co-coordinate the STEM Interaction and Communication Hub, a collaboration of students and researchers launched in Spring 2022 to address broader impacts through the communication of scientific research progress and findings to the broader community

### ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY | TEMPE, AZ

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ASU KERN GRANT, AUGUST 2016 – JULY 2017

- Developed, promoted and executed deliverables of the grant, including the integration of the pillars of an entrepreneurial mindset into Engineering curriculum and the development of Sparky's Vista, a freshman-oriented workshop presented to over 1,500 students each summer
- Worked with Project Manager to complete quarterly and annual grant reports
- Supervised multiple student workers, including the Program Assistant and Entrepreneurial Catalysts, and oversaw the Kern Grant University Innovation Fellows team
- Reviewed undergraduate research applications for integration of an entrepreneurial mindset and provided training, funding, and mentorship to students who applied innovative thinking to projects

## PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Zecher, T. & Ozis, F. The Impact of Faculty Mindset on Communication and Professor-Student Rapport. ASEE 2022 Conference Proceedings, Minneapolis, MN.
- Zecher, T., Ingram, J., & Rodas, C. Understanding Faculty Perceptions of Equity for Diverse Populations. AAC&U 2022 Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, New Orleans, LA.
- Ozis, F., Zecher, T., & Bloom, N. Evaluation of an EPIC Student Experience to Broaden Participation in Engineering Programs. ASEE 2021 Conference Proceedings, Virtual.
- Zecher, T. (2020). Assessment that Counts: Measuring Gains from Undergraduate Research Based on University Learning Outcomes. Northern Arizona University. *2020 Showcase of Strategies for Student Success*, Flagstaff, AZ. [Cancelled due to COVID-19.]
- Zecher, T. (2019). Assessment that Counts: Measuring Gains from Undergraduate Research Based on University Learning Outcomes. Council on Undergraduate Research. *2019 Undergraduate Research Programs Division Conference*, Columbus, OH.
- Zecher, T. (2019). RAMP: The Framework for RAMPing up Undergraduate Research Participation through a Peer Mentoring Program. Council on Undergraduate Research. *2019 Undergraduate Research Programs Division Conference*, Columbus, OH.
- Reitmeier, L. and Zecher, T. (2017). Developing the 3-Cs of an Entrepreneurial Mindset through a 48-Hour Design Challenge. *2017 American Society for Engineering Education Pacific Southwest*, Tempe, AZ.

## GRANTS

- Propper, Antoninka, Castagno, Brown & Zecher. Multi-Institutional Transformation and Graduate Student Support Initiative (MITS): Building Bridges and Transforming Institutions to Support Graduate STEM Education for Indigenous and Latinx Students, AP Sloan Foundation (\$499,750).
- Ingram, Knight, Rodas & Zecher. Understanding Faculty Perceptions of Equity Concepts for Diverse Populations. Dean's Summer Research Grant (\$5,000).
- Hamlin & Zecher. Diné Co-designed Culturally Responsive Robotics Curriculum. Braitmayer Foundation (\$35,000).
- Clark, Rubino-Hare, Ryan, Hamlin, Bloom & Zecher. Planetary Learning that Advances the Nexus of Engineering, Technology and Science (\$4,000,000).
- Allen, Smith & Zecher. The Big IDEA/La Gran IDEA. 100,000 Strong for the Americas (\$25,000).

## AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS

Advancing Research Impact in Society, 2022 Fellow  
American Educational Research Association member, 2021-Present  
American Evaluation Association member, 2020-Present  
Love of Learning Scholarship Recipient, 2021  
College of Education Diversity Task Force, Department Representative, 2020-Present  
American Association of Colleges & Universities Certified VALUE Critical Thinking Rubric Rater, 2020-Present  
Council on Undergraduate Research elected representative, 2019-Present  
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi member, 2019-Present  
Undergraduate Research Advisory Council Chair, 2017-2020

## EDUCATION

### PH.D. IN CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Northern Arizona University | Est. Completion May 2025 | FLAGSTAFF, AZ

### M.ED. IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP – COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Northern Arizona University | March 2019 | FLAGSTAFF, AZ

### BS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMICS/FINANCE

University of Texas at Dallas | May 1999 | RICHARDSON, TX