

### 2023-2024 Elections Chemistry Division: Division Representative Slate

**Position Purpose:** The work of Divisions is done by Division Representatives who advance undergraduate research by providing networking opportunities, activities, and educational content. Their aim is to create and foster community and value within the organization. Representatives support the members of their division in activities and programs that align with the CUR strategic plan, mission, vision, and values.

### Needed Qualifications:

- Familiar with CUR and it's mission
- Passionate about or had mentor experience in undergraduate research
- Showcases thought leadership in undergraduate research
- CUR Membership (once elected)
- Previous volunteer experience, not required but

### *There are 8 individuals running. You may vote for all candidates presented to be elected as representatives 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.

- <u>Hector Palencia</u>
- <u>Vanessa McCaffrey</u>
- <u>Catherine Mauck</u>
- <u>Geneive Henry</u>
- <u>Aimee Tomlinson</u>
- <u>Jeremy Klosterman</u>
- Joseph Baker
- <u>Arun Sharma</u>

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

The University of Nebraska is dedicated to establishing itself as a leading undergraduate institution in the nation, focusing on providing outstanding undergraduate education, scholarship, and public service. The university actively encourages students to engage in research activities, fostering creativity and enriching their learning experiences. As a leader, I helm a dynamic research group consisting of four members during the academic year and two during the summer. The commitment and accomplishments of my students are showcased through presentations at ACS meetings and CUR conferences, complemented by the publication of our research findings in peer-reviewed journals. Notably, our endeavors have been bolstered by successful collaboration with the NU Foundation and NSF, resulting in the acquisition of external funding. This support ensures the continued success of our impactful projects. The achievements of our research projects have served as a source of inspiration for my students, motivating them to pursue careers in Medicine, Pharmacy, and Chemistry. Together, we contribute to the university's mission of fostering excellence in education, scholarship, and public service.

### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URSCA) at UNK is to facilitate meaningful out-of-class research experiences for students. The programs are meticulously crafted to provide opportunities for undergraduates to engage in original scholarly work, guided by dedicated faculty mentors who align with the institution's mission and vision. In the realm of diversity and inclusion within URSCA, I contribute by ensuring that opportunities extend to students from diverse backgrounds. Many of my mentees are trailblazers as first-generation students, hailing from rural areas where limited resources in small high schools can pose challenges. These students, both Chemistry majors and non-majors, find an inclusive space in our research endeavors. My commitment to diversity is reflected in the varied ethnicities and backgrounds of my mentees, including Mexican Americans, Africans, Mexicans, white Americans, and Israelis. By bridging gaps and creating a welcoming environment, I aim to provide all students with the chance to appreciate and participate in chemistry-related activities, irrespective of their background or academic focus. Through these efforts, I actively contribute to promoting diversity and inclusion within the URSCA community.

### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

In assuming the role of CUR Division Representative, I bring a wealth of experience and a demonstrated commitment to advancing undergraduate research. My previous term as Division Representative for the Chemistry division from 2015 to 2018 reflects my proficiency in shaping strategic direction and fostering community engagement. I anticipate leveraging my skills in networking and program development to provide valuable opportunities for members within our division. As an advocate for undergraduate research, I have successfully championed its pivotal role in shaping the next generation of scientists. My role in the advocacy committee allowed me to understand the nuanced needs of our members, and I am poised to translate this understanding into meaningful activities and educational content. Having served as a facilitator for new faculty, I possess the insights to guide and support members in launching and enhancing their research programs,

aligning seamlessly with CUR's strategic plan and values. Moreover, my involvement in the Inclusion and Diversity Subcommittee demonstrates my commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community within the division. I plan to build on this foundation by promoting activities that resonate with CUR's mission and vision, ensuring that all members feel valued and supported in their undergraduate research pursuits. Overall, I am well-prepared to contribute to the advancement of undergraduate research by creating a vibrant and inclusive community that aligns seamlessly with CUR's strategic goals.

### If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

During my tenure as Division Representative (formerly Division Councilor) for the Chemistry division from 2015 to 2018, I played a pivotal role in steering the organization's strategic direction. In addition to this overarching responsibility, my involvement in the advocacy committee allowed me to passionately champion the significance of undergraduate research in molding the future generation of scientists. In my capacity as a facilitator for new faculty, I shared valuable insights on launching research programs at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs), contributing significantly to their professional growth and development. I was also an active member of the Inclusion and Diversity Subcommittee from 2018 to 2022, I spearheaded efforts to promote equity. One notable initiative involved creating a compelling podcast that effectively amplified the voices of minority students, shedding light on the unique challenges they face within the academic landscape. These experiences during my previous term underscore my commitment to strategic leadership, advocacy for undergraduate research, and dedicated efforts toward fostering inclusion and diversity within the division.

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

I have been actively involved both in practicing and administering programs for undergraduate research for over 20 years. I strongly believe in the transforming power of undergraduate research for both me and the students that I work with and mentor. I have worked with more than 50 students on chemistry and interdisciplinary research projects and have published and presented with them as co-authors on all of these projects. Albion College is a PUI and my greatest joy is getting to work one-on-one with students and seeing them develop as scientists. I know that the pace of my research output is lower than it could be, but I firmly believe that giving students ownership over all aspects of a research project is key in their growth. I celebrate their successes and experimental failures – knowing that each of these provides specific and key pieces of growth and development.

#### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

Working towards access to undergraduate research experiences for everyone is a large goal of mine. For example, while directing the undergraduate research program at Albion College, I took a lot of time to talk to students about what was working and what wasn't, specifically with the summer research program. We identified some systemic barriers that were affecting how our students were able to access food during the first month of the program. The changes that were made in 2019 are still in effect with the program. This experience taught be the first-hand importance of establishing trust and using it to help bring down barriers that exist towards inequity. I have also changed how I recruit students to the research lab. Instead of waiting for them to reach out to me, I active recruit students in my classes. I have shifted research projects and worked to design procedures that are capable of being done in smaller blocks of time so that meaningful work and results can be achieved during the time that students have available. I have worked to make sure that students are getting credit for their research work – either through course credit or through payment. I was instrumental in designing a program at Albion College that provided work-study money students in all programs, not just the sciences.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

I am an active participant in all organizations that I belong to. I enjoy talking to people and getting to know them and their goals. I am always looking for ways that I can help to increase value to our members. I am active in attending all divisional meetings and participating in the discussions of how we can best move CUR forward. I am interested in finding ways to support new practitioners of UR through mentorship (listening is one of the things that I do best!) and active participation in CUR.

# If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

I have been active in the CUR Chemistry podcasting group. I have recorded five episodes and participated in the creation of multiple others. I have attended multiple CUR conferences and participated in the inaugural STAR program.

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

I have worked with 9 Kenyon undergraduate chemistry and biochemistry majors in my research laboratory, including 1 Clare Boothe Luce Scholar and 2 students who pursued Honors Research with me. This research has produced 2 publications so far with undergraduate authors, both of which included collaborations with other faculty and students at other PUIs. I have had 2-4 students each summer since my arrival at Kenyon, with the exception of Summer 2020 due to COVID-19.

#### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

I make an effort to have in place clear policies and model inclusive culture in my own research group. I frequently mentor research students whose identities are historically underrepresented in STEM due to race, gender, and sexual orientation. In addition, I have participated in initiatives at Kenyon, from participating in the Equity Institute (DEI /anti-racism 1-week workshop through the IDEAL center); and presenting with my department at the 2021 Great Lakes Regional Meeting on Elevating the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion in Chemistry on a case study of our institutional environment and departmental values.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

I am eager to connect with faculty and students who are excited about and engaged in undergraduate research, and have actively sought out opportunities to collaborate and network with others at undergraduate-focused institutions. This is evident from my published work with collaborators at Otterbein University and Colby College, but also in ongoing collaborations with colleagues at Denison and Furman Universities; and my continued engagement with the Primarily Undergraduate Nanomaterials Cooperative (PUNC) which meets weekly during the summer remotely to connect faculty and give students the opportunity to present. I also bring familiarity with funding opportunities for PUI chemistry faculty with expertise outside of the biological or life sciences

# If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight? No response provided.

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

An important goal of Susquehanna University's strategic plan is to foster faculty-student research. The Chemistry Department requires each Chemistry and Biochemistry major to complete six semester hours of research during their last two years, including two semester hours of capstone during the final semester. In addition, students are encouraged to begin research during their first or second year. I believe that mentoring research students is an important component of my role as an educator, and I have mentored over 70 students, both during the academic year and summer months. The majority of these students have presented their research at several conferences, including Posters on the Hill, ACS, NCUR, Pennsylvania Academy of Science and Susquehanna Valley Undergraduate Research Symposium. Almost half of the students have been co-authors on peer-reviewed publications. My research has been funded by two external grants: NSF-RUI and Research Corporation for Science Advancement Cottrell Scholar award. In addition, I was Co-PI on a NSF-MRI grant for the upgrade of our NMR console. This acquisition has made a significant impact on the teaching and research programs in the department. I was a 2020 recipient of the CUR Chemistry Division's Outstanding Mentorship Award, a recognition resulting from the involvement of undergraduate students in my research projects, with successful outcomes.

#### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

I have incorporated several inclusion and diversity best practices in my research program. Sixty percent of the students that I have mentored are female. I have also mentored a number of students from under-represented minority group or who identify as non-binary. The students that I have trained are from a variety of majors, including Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Psychology and Earth & Environmental Sciences. In the past six years, I have created interdisciplinary research opportunities for over forty-five undergraduate students through collaborations with members of the Chemistry and Biology Departments at Susquehanna University, and faculty in Chemistry departments at Spelman College and Salve Regina University. These opportunities include traditional research experiences and CURE courses.

### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

I have enjoyed serving as Councilor (Representative) for the Chemistry Division, and wish to continue working with this community for another cycle to promote undergraduate research. I believe that my mentorship practices are closely aligned with CUR's mission and strategic plan. I will continue my efforts to engage a diverse group of students in high-impact research activities, and build community through collaboration with faculty at PUIs. I am also prepared to broaden my participation by engaging in other areas, including advocacy and sustainability.

# If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

I am seeking election to a second 3-year term as Division Representative. I have attended each annual business meeting, as well as the 2022 ConnectUR meeting. I've served as Chair of the Chemistry Division's outstanding mentorship award committee since 2022. In addition, I've been a member of the Newsletter Committee since 2023, and was a member of the Advocacy sub-group from 2021-2022.

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

In Spring 2008, I worked with my first undergraduate collaborator and my group has since been continuously populated with students. The mission of UNG is to provide "a culture of academic excellence in a student-focused environment that includes quality education, service, research and creativity." I have fostered this statement in all aspects of my tenure at UNG. My research group averages 3 to 5 students per semester and is, or has been, supported by both the National Science Foundation and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. Of the 22 manuscripts I have published since 2013, 17 have possessed student authors and the two I am submitting in the next few months will all feature student work. UNG professorial scholarship must include undergraduates and it has been my honor to adhere to this decree.

#### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

I worked with 1 student from Trinidad and Tobago, and several first generation college students. Moreover, 22 out of 52 of my undergraduate researchers have been young women. Apart from the population statistics, my new student members are trained by current student researchers who mentor them throughout their first semester. Once they have been with me for a year, I encourage them to suggest research projects which adhere to the goals of my grants. Finally, my longest collaboration has been with Malika Jeffries-EL who is from an URM in which most of our manuscripts featured an underrepresented graduate student and/or postdoc.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

I have served for 3 years on the CUR Chemistry Division as a Councilor, as a co-chair for the Scholarship Subcommittee of the ACS Project SEED, as well as a chair for the ACS CTA committee. Therefore, I have a history of leadership appointments from which I may draw to uphold this charge.

### If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

Unfortunately, I do not have anything that for which I can take all the credit. However, if chosen to serve for another 3 years, I have been tasked to assemble a Task Force in order to identify and determine how our division may be of service to URM and socioeconomically challenged populations.

### Jeremy K. Klosterman, University of California San Diego

**Chemistry Division Nominee** 

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

At UC San Diego, I am positioned to support the UR community at the national level by serving as CUR Representative and will promote new CUR initiatives supporting students and PIs at large PhD-granting Research Universities. I've served on the UCSD Triton Research and Experiential Learning Scholars (TRELS) program advisory board which seeks to increase the number of students involved in research and mentored projects. Working within the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department Undergraduate Committee, I help organize and serve a judge for the annual ACS Student affiliates undergraduate research symposium each spring. I've spearheaded revisions to our chemistry internship program, in collaboration with the UCSD Academic Internship Program, to expand access and facilitate opportunities for all to engage in meaningful laboratory research experiences with a special emphasis on increasing the participation of first-generation students, transfer students and historically underserved students. Now we are incorporating course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) into upper division organic lab classes in partnership with ongoing research programs across campus. I have had the pleasure of working with many undergraduates on various research projects. Each student first develops an independent research proposal; many of which were selected and funded for summer research fellowships from the NSF (STEP) funded Science, Engineering & Technology Gateway Ohio (SETGO) program, the BGSU Center for Undergraduate Research, and the Chemistry Department. All undergrad researchers are encouraged to present at local and national scientific conferences. At UCSD we are designing 3D printed molecular structures to examine the effects on student learning and visuospatial skill development. Hannah Martin presented some of our work at UCSD, the BCCE, local ACS student affiliate research symposium and National ACS meetings and was first author, along with UCSD ungraduate Emily Eisner, in our recent JChemEd. publication.

### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

Through my international experiences in the United States, Switzerland, and Japan, I saw firsthand that even though we are all chemists, the educational systems lead students to approach problems from different perspectives and to arrive at culturally unique solutions. I strongly believe that all students can benefit from diverse perspectives and always challenge my students to recognize the international aspects of chemistry in an inclusive manner open to all. I've recently revamped our chemistry internship program to expand access and facilitate opportunities for all to engage in meaningful laboratory research experiences with a special emphasis on increasing participation of first-generation students, transfer students and historically underserved students. In lab courses, I actively work to make all students aware of the opportunities of UR and help make connections between students and research groups via introductions and recommendations. It's incredibly rewarding when I run into former students on campus who say that they are involved in research because of our discussions. As faculty advisor for the UCSD ACS student affiliates, I help students organize inclusive chemistry outreach events on campus and in the local community. Each Spring, we hold an undergraduate research symposium for students at UCSD and SDSU to build connections and foster an inclusive community at UCSD. I also run outreach programs at a local elementary school and, as part of the Women in STEM day, I organized a hands-on module using 3D printed molecules to explore molecular structure. These events empower young girls to see

themselves as future scientists. At BGSU I worked with the Achievement in Math and Science (AIMS) program to recruit, train and direct women and under-represented minorities, who are STEM majors, to graduate in four years and be well-prepared to continue onto graduate work to perform cutting edge research/development, and/or teaching.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

Undergraduate research is an essential aspect of the research enterprise and the pinnacle of a chemical education. My own research experiences at a small PUI in Idaho proved pivotal in my decision to pursue a scientific career across the globe. As one of the top research schools in the nation, UCSD undergrads have amazing opportunities to get involved with cutting-edge research. However, with 1000 Chemistry and Biochemistry undergraduate majors every year, there is simply not enough opportunities for every student to participate. As such, I am working to i) increase opportunities and integrate URE into the curriculum at UCSD - through industry based internships and the development of large-scale course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) and ii) foster an inclusive departmental community that supports undergraduates and their PIs. As such, my work actively supports the current goals of CUR's strategic plan, mission and values. At UC San Diego, an R-1 public research school, I am well-positioned to establish new partnerships and support CUR at PhD granting institutions, a potential new direction for CUR with expanded networking and community opportunities.

If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight? No response provided.

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

The College of New Jersey places very high value in mentoring of undergraduate students in collaborative research. My research group uses computational chemistry methods to investigate biomolecular systems. More specifically we study the biophysical properties of protein filaments that bacteria use for motion and adhesion, as well as the interactions between ionic liquids/deep eutectic solvents and biomembranes. I have mentored more than 40 undergraduate students in my laboratory since joining the TCNJ Chemistry Department in 2014. My students are deeply involved in every aspect of their projects including project design, running simulations, analyzing data, and preparing written reports and presentations of their work. They have also students regularly attend local and national conferences to present their work. My group has published and submitted 15 articles since I arrived at TCNJ. We have also regularly present our work more at local, regional, and national meetings. I have had 5 NSF grants funded since arriving at TCNJ, as well as funding for undergraduate research in our School of Science through the Sherman Fairchild Foundation. Several students from my lab have earned Goldwater Honorable Mentions, NSF GRFP Honorable Mentions, the ACS Priscilla Carney Jones Award, as well as the NSF GRFP award (one student while they were a senior in my group). I support my students to follow their passions after graduation, and my former group members have gone into industry, health professional programs, teaching, and PhD programs in a variety of fields including Chemistry, Biophysics, and Materials Science and Engineering. I regularly mentor students during the summer through TCNJ's funded summer research program and through my NSF grants. I have also obtained funding for a supercomputer at TCNJ through the NSF MRI program which has provided our institution with significant resources for undergraduates to perform computational research at TCNJ.

### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

I served as a Co-Chair of our General Chemistry Curricular Transformation Committee as part of our HHMI Inclusive Excellence Award at TCNJ to transform the introductory chemistry curriculum to a more inclusive environment for students, promoting retention in our major. I have also redesigned curriculum in our physical chemistry sequence to make it more active learning to help all learners. In recruiting students for my research group I have made a strong effort to include students from underrepresented groups and first-generation college students. Once students are in my group I work extremely hard to support them and provide them with opportunities to grow as scientists and individuals. I focus a great deal on community building within my laboratory group so that students feel comfortable working with one another and with me. I have committed myself to continuously learn how to be a better Teacher-Scholar through engaging in professional development activities. For example, in June 2019 I attended a 4-day workshop at TCNJ called the Mobile Summer Institute on Scientific Teaching, which focused on active, student-centered techniques in the classroom to help improve student learning. Several of the techniques discussed during the workshop were centered around engaging students in research experiences in the classroom. I co-wrote an award proposal funded by the Sherman Fairchild Foundation to support undergraduate summer research in the sciences at TCNJ, focusing on firstgeneration students and students underrepresented in the sciences who are also early in their undergraduate career. This funded 45 students over three years. I have also worked on campus policies to ease the process of

community college transfer to TCNJ, and have co-written an NIH grant to build bridges between TCNJ and local community colleges.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

I am an Associate Professor in Chemistry in my 10th year at The College of New Jersey, and am finishing my second term on the CUR Chemistry Division. I am a computational chemist, and I work on a variety of biophysical problems. I am very passionate about undergraduate research, and have built an inclusive research group at TCNJ. It is central to my mentoring philosophy that students discover their passion, and to provide an environment in which they can grow as scientists and individuals. I have mentored more than 40 undergraduates and have supported them to pursue outcomes including industry, teaching, medicine, and graduate school. In CUR I will continue to be a strong voice for diversity, equity, and inclusion in undergraduate research. At TCNJ I have been very successful in obtaining funding for research and research infrastructure. I will provide leadership on CUR by mentoring junior colleagues in the chemistry community as they begin their careers. Outside of CUR I am engaged in organizations that have a strong commitment to undergraduate research including the MERCURY Consortium and the American Chemical Society. I have served multiple terms as Chair of the ACS Trenton Local Section, and I was technical programming co-chair for MARM 2022 which was a very successful meeting held at TCNJ. I am co-chairing our campus' Middle States reaffirmation of accreditation process, which has given me a broad understanding of our institution, and I have served in a wide range of TCNJ faculty leadership roles. These roles provide me an opportunity to be a strong advocate for CUR in other organizations. Finally, my research is highly collaborative across biology, chemistry, physics, and computer science. Therefore, I am interested in building new interactions between the different divisions in CUR to promote undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry for all.

## If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

During my previous CUR term my primary role has been to serve on our Chemistry Division podcasting committee. I have helped to review podcast audio, helped to promote the podcast on social media, and to brainstorm ideas for podcast episodes.

### Arun Sharma, California State University, Monterey Bay

**Chemistry Division Nominee** 

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

### Please comment on your involvement in undergraduate research activities in the context of your institution and its mission.

Aligned with CSUMB's mission, my role in undergraduate research has been pivotal in preparing students to make responsible contributions to California and the global community. I have mentored 25 undergraduates, including 12 first-generation college students, in computational chemistry research, instilling the inclusive and transformative learning experiences our institution advocates for. In the past eight years, my mentees and I have co-authored 8 peer-reviewed articles and 2 book chapters, demonstrating the collaborative and productive nature of our research endeavors. These publications, stemming from projects backed by NSF, ACS, and the Department of Energy at LLNL, have not only provided students with a platform to contribute to scientific knowledge but have also been integral to their professional development and scholarly recognition. These research projects are meticulously selected to echo both global and Californian socio-environmental concerns, thus reinforcing the University's vision of impactful education. Students engage deeply with advanced computational tools and Linux-based systems, gaining critical skills that propel them towards future STEM opportunities. My mentorship philosophy prioritizes inclusivity, ensuring that underrepresented students, particularly first-generation scholars, receive comprehensive support to navigate and excel in the demanding field of scientific research. This nurturing environment promotes personal growth and academic excellence, equipping students with the competencies needed to responsibly address the challenges of tomorrow. This symbiosis of rigorous academic research and personal mentorship underlines my commitment to fostering an inclusive educational atmosphere, driving not just academic success but also preparing students as global citizens poised to contribute responsibly beyond our University's confines.

### In what ways have you helped promote diversity and inclusion in URSCA?

I have been actively involved in promoting diversity and inclusion in Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (URSCA) within the STEM disciplines. Leveraging my personal journey as the first in my family to opt for a career in science, I focus on guiding first-generation college students and women in STEM fields. To date, I've directly mentored 29 students, including 15 first-generation, 19 women, and 7 Hispanic students. Four of these students have been accepted to renowned institutions to pursue graduate programs in To foster inclusivity, my URSCA projects deliberately incorporate diverse viewpoints and cultures. Chemistry. I make an effort to highlight the contributions of underrepresented scientists, particularly those from the Black and LGBTQ communities. This approach has not only diversified the perspectives within our research projects but has also made underrepresented students feel seen and valued, establishing a more inclusive environment. Beyond the lab and the classroom, I've collaborated with departmental and university-wide initiatives to bolster diversity in URSCA. I'm currently working on introducing workshops and seminars that delve into the contributions of scientists from diverse backgrounds, thereby encouraging a broader range of students to engage in research opportunities. In terms of measurable impact, the students I have mentored have gone on to publish papers, present at conferences, and successfully apply to competitive graduate programs. This demonstrates that a diverse group of students, when given the appropriate mentorship and resources, can excel in scholarly activities. In summary, my efforts in URSCA aim to break down the barriers that underrepresented students often face in academia. By fostering an inclusive research environment and equipping students from

diverse backgrounds with the skills and confidence they need, I am contributing to a more equitable academic landscape.

#### How do you anticipate your skills will help successfully uphold the Division Representative charge?

Given my experience in promoting diversity and inclusion in STEM and URSCA, I am well-positioned to uphold the charge of a CUR Division Representative. My skill set aligns closely with the goals of fostering community, creating value within the organization, and supporting activities that resonate with CUR's strategic plan, mission, vision, and values. My background in mentorship, especially in guiding underrepresented groups like women and first-generation students, equips me to develop networking opportunities that are inclusive and wide-reaching. I understand the power of a strong network in academia and research, and I'm committed to creating platforms where CUR members can connect, collaborate, and benefit mutually. In terms of aligning with the strategic plan and mission of CUR, my work in URSCA speaks directly to advancing undergraduate research. I've actively collaborated on departmental and institutional initiatives, and my approach can be adapted to align seamlessly with CUR's objectives. My knack for metrics-driven results - evidenced by the high rates of graduate school admissions among the students I've mentored – ensures that my contributions will have a measurable impact on CUR's goals. Finally, my commitment to respectful dialogue and patience makes me adept at handling diverse viewpoints, which is crucial for fostering a sense of community. My core values resonate strongly with CUR's, making me a strong candidate to advance its mission and vision. In summary, my skills in mentorship, curriculum development, networking, and inclusive community building are directly applicable to the roles and responsibilities of a CUR Division Representative. I am committed to leveraging these skills to add value to the organization and support its strategic aims.

### If you have served a previous term as Division Representative (previously Division Councilor), are there any particular contributions during your previous term(s) that you would like to highlight?

I have not served as a Division Representative at CUR. However, I have served as Symposium organizer at national American Chemical Society Conference and currently lead a sub-group on Math issues in Physical Chemistry as part of a national LABSIP initiative. I have mentored multiple junior faculty on the tenure-track to achieving successful undergraduate research programs.