



COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

## **2023-2024 Elections**

### **Engineering 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 2 individuals running.*

*You may vote for all candidates presented to be elected as representatives for this division.*

*This division will also be accepting write-In candidates for this election cycle.*

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

- [Christina Ivler](#)
- [Irene Reizman](#)

## Christina Ivler, University of Portland

### *Engineering Division Nominee*

---

#### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

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

My institution is primarily undergraduate, and part of our mission in the School of Engineering is to provide meaningful experiential learning experiences for our undergraduate students. Undergraduate research opportunities are wonderful experiential learning opportunities for undergraduates and are valued as such at my institution. During my time (6.5 years) at University of Portland, I have mentored over 15 undergraduate researchers and co-authored nine peer-reviewed publications with undergraduates. My research is in the topic of flying qualities of rotorcraft, so I do a lot of flight test-based research on multicopters (drones) - the undergraduate research assistants under my mentorship conduct hands-on experiments to apply the theories they learn, conduct flight tests of these small aircraft, analyze the data, and help publish the results.

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

I have worked to promote diversity and inclusion in many ways. The first is by ensuring that hiring for my undergraduate research positions is done in an equitable manner. I not only announce opportunities broadly through the university but I announce in my classes and reach out specifically to unrepresented groups (women, minorities, first-generation college students) and invite them to apply. I let these students know that research by nature is flexible in schedule and that I am accommodating to non-traditional students that might live off campus. I give my students a written set of expectations on the first day of the semester, and am sure to have a diversity and inclusion policy that I go over with all students working in my lab. I meet with the students involved in my research regularly, both as a group and individually, and keep an open line of communication and provide a welcoming and encouraging environment in all lab meetings.

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

I have been a part of the engineering division for the last 3 years, and feel that my skills are well aligned with the mission of CUR. I am committed to advancing best practices in engineering undergraduate research. In my area of research, helicopter and rotorcraft flight dynamics, I have been working to advance undergraduate research practices and I think that connecting that community with CUR is important towards this goal, so I have been trying to make people within my research community more aware of the activities and resources CUR provides. One of the things I have done within CUR is to organize a webinar on best practices for undergraduate research from our engineering award winners. I would like to continue this next year.

##### **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 currently the vice-chair of the engineering division. I am particularly proud of the webinar (CUR conversation) I put together and hosted on best practices for undergraduate research for our engineering award winners. I have also helped with awards each year, which has been very rewarding to see how many great mentors there are out there in engineering undergraduate research.

# Irene Reizman, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

---

## *Engineering Division Nominee*

### **NOMINEE STATEMENTS**

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

My institution is focused on undergraduate education in engineering and the sciences. I have directly mentored numerous undergraduate researchers. I also introduced a new research program for first- and second-year students, which includes coursework in research skills, assistance in matching with faculty mentors, and a paid research experience.

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

Through introducing a new research pathway at my institution, I hope to lower barriers to undergraduate research for students from a variety of backgrounds. The paid experience can reduce financial barriers, while the structured pathway can help students who may be more uncertain about how to find research opportunities or get started on a project.

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

I hope that I can increase awareness of CUR resources among engineering faculty and graduate students through activities that connect with professional societies such as AIChE or engineering faculty networks such as KEEN. Graduate students are often involved in mentorship of undergraduate researchers and could especially benefit from networking and education. Connecting with professional societies could help in reaching graduate students earlier. In a collaboration through KEEN, I have been involved in creating new training materials for undergraduate researchers and mentors in engineering. I can bring my experience with creating and hosting those workshops to develop additional educational content through 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?**

N/A