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## e-Newsletter

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### In this issue:

*CUR Nominations and  
Elections*

*Call for Reviewers for  
NCUR*

*Paper on CURE*

*Spotlight on Dr. Femi  
Odebiyi, CUR Social*

*Science Division*

*Representative*

*New Mission Statement*

*Upcoming Opportunities  
& Deadlines*

*“As the demographics and needs of members have changed, CUR has adapted and expanded to offer supportive environments for a diverse group of individuals and institutions.”*

### CUR 2023-2024 Nominations and Elections

Nominations for CUR elected positions opened on October 16, 2023. Division Representatives link the organization to its members, by advancing undergraduate research through developing program resources, offering networking and mentor development opportunities, and advocating for CUR and undergraduate research at their home institutions.

Please encourage your qualified colleagues to apply to serve as Social Science Division Representatives! Individuals with undergraduate research experience, leaders in undergraduate research theory and pedagogy, and those who are passionate about undergraduate research are especially encouraged to consider applying. Nominations close on January 3, 2024. You can let your colleagues know that self-nominations are welcome. [Link](#)

### Call for Reviewers for NCUR

CUR seeks abstract reviewers for NCUR. Please contact Dr. Doreen Sams if you are interested in serving as a reviewer.

### Paper on CURE

Several of the Social Science Division members have been collaborating to outline a paper on CURE in the Social Sciences and begin the literature review. They will have more information to share on this in the new year!

### Interview with Dr. Femi Odebiyi, Social Science Division Representative

This month spotlights Femi Odebiyi, CUR Social Sciences Division Representative.



Femi is Assistant Professor of International Business Administration at LCC International University in Lithuania. In addition to teaching courses such as Entrepreneurship and Business Research Methods, he coordinates student final projects for the degree's capstone courses.

Femi is also a member of the Research Council at LCC International University and devotes time and resources to actively engaging students in faculty-mentored student research. He reviews

abstract submissions for NCUR and the World Congress on Undergraduate Research (WCUR).

### **What CUR committees or task forces are you currently serving on?**

I serve on the CUR Nominations and Leadership Development Committee.

### **How long have you been mentoring undergraduate research?**

I have been mentoring undergraduate research for over 8 years now.

*“We assist administrators and faculty members in improving and assessing the research environment at their institutions. We recognize institutions that have exemplary undergraduate research programs and faculty who have facilitated undergraduate research at their institutions through their mentorship and leadership.”*

One of my recent experiential learning activities is the 2022 J.J. Kidd Fellowship award for the project Creative Interdisciplinary Conversation on Undergraduate Research (CICUR). The ultimate purpose of this project was to identify what is a unique structure that provides students with effective opportunities to achieve the goals of an education that enriches their ability to think critically and engage in research. The education should also provide them with the opportunity to acquire relevant skills. The project involved students and faculty from both LCC International University and Humboldt University, in Berlin, Germany and the overarching question for the project was "How does liberal arts education in the context of UR seek to pursue this goal when compared to mono-discipline programs?"

I am also pilot testing a Global Research Collaboration (GRC) project with a partner university in Kansas, USA. The GRC is meant to facilitate student-led, faculty-mentored ad-hoc research projects with an emphasis on business/economic issues that are trans-Atlantic in nature and ramifications.

### **What influenced you to join CUR?**

I was motivated to join CUR to get access to resources on undergraduate research and share best practices on undergraduate research.

### **New Mission Statement**

The CUR Social Science Division has adopted a new mission statement.

The Mission Statement of the Social Science Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research is: “The primary purpose of the Social Science Division Representatives (SSDR) of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is to support and promote the mission of CUR within and outside of the Social Science Division (SSD). The vision of the SSDRs is to empower all Social Science Division members to grow CUR’s SSD membership and provide support for SSD members in areas connected to high-quality undergraduate research in the Social Sciences. SSDRs value clear communication for working collaboratively and sharing strategic Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors information and opportunities with the CUR members and the interested public to support quality Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors opportunities. “

## Upcoming Opportunities & Deadlines

Submission Window for NCUR is Open and the deadline is December 8, 2023.

[Link](#)

The Social Sciences Faculty Excellence Award in Mentoring of Undergraduate Research is open for nominations and the deadline is March 1, 2024. [Link](#)

Social Science Undergraduate Conference Awards: The Social Sciences Division of CUR is offering a limited number of grants, up to \$200 each, for undergraduate students presenting research at regional or national in-person meetings during the 2023-2024 year. For information or questions, [email Brian Lagotte](#). [Link](#)

## Contact Information



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