



A Personal and Professional Story of Mentoring Women in Undergraduate Research

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CUR Treasurer

Professor of Biology, Westminster College

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We are CUR.

The Council on Undergraduate Research



We are community.

INDIVIDUALS engaged through membership

14091	504	13587	15	60
TOTAL MEMBERS	INDIVIDUAL	INSTITUTIONAL	AFFILIATE	SYSTEM

MEMBERSHIPS in other countries

- AUSTRALIA
- CANADA
- EGYPT
- JAPAN
- GHANA
- LITHUANIA
- PAKISTAN
- SINGAPORE
- UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- UNITED KINGDOM
- UNITED STATES

11
TOTAL

MISSION

Our members are...

- MEMBERED INSTITUTIONS BY STATE (DATA IS AS OF DECEMBER 2024)
- INCREASED NUMBER OF MEMBERED INSTITUTIONS SINCE 2023
- LARGEST POPULATION OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (DATA IS AS OF DECEMBER 2024)

The mission of the Council on Undergraduate Research is to support and promote high-quality mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry.

The Council on Undergraduate Research

- Support and Professional Development
- Publication and Outreach Activities
- Tools
- Recognition
- Advocacy

CAMPUS
AURA RECIPIENTS

DIVISIONAL awards

26
TOTAL
AWARDS

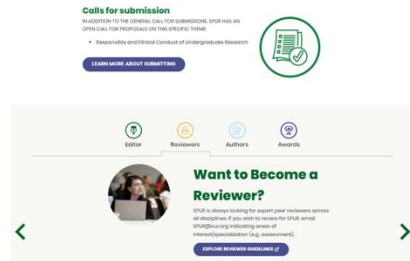
69
TOTAL
RECIPIENTS



COEUR2.0

Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research

First Edition Editors: Linda Becker, University of Portland; Peter L. Smith, University of Northern Iowa; Robert C. Brinkman, The University of Iowa; Peter M. Pappas, Baylor University; John W. Miller, University of Northern Iowa
Second Edition Editors: Wendy Conroy, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; Peter L. Smith, University of Northern Iowa; Robert C. Brinkman, The University of Iowa; Peter M. Pappas, Baylor University; John W. Miller, University of Northern Iowa



The Undergraduate Research Experience

HOW IT STARTED: 1998



HOW IT STARTED: 2009



HOW IT'S GOING: 2025



HOW IT'S GOING 2025



National Conference on Undergraduate Research

Why Should Mentors support their Student's Presentations at NCUR?

- **Present Research** – Gain experience sharing work in a professional setting.
- **Enhance Resume & Grad School Applications** – Demonstrate research skills and academic engagement.
- **Network with Experts & Peers** – Meet faculty, professionals, and fellow students in their field.
- **Explore Career & Graduate School Opportunities** – Connect with representatives from top programs.
- **Engage in Professional Development** – Participate in workshops and panel discussions.
- **Be Part of a National Community** – Join thousands of students passionate about research and discovery!



April 8 – 10
Pittsburgh, PA

Applications open
in October and
close early
December

Location up next:
Richmond, VA,
April 13-15, 2026



Mentorship for Integrating Research Into the Classroom (MIRIC)

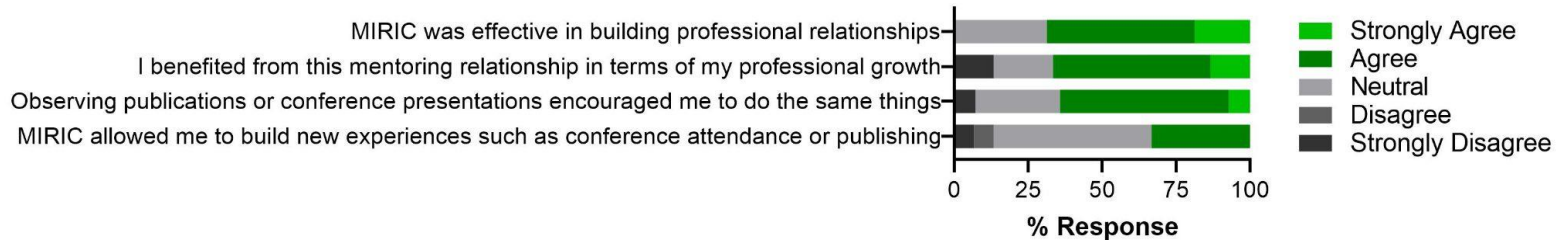
Affinity Groups

- Starting from Scratch
- Building Skills
- Culturally Responsive CUREs
- Keeping it Fresh: Building and Sustaining a CURE



Learning Community

- Aspects of a "strong" CURE
- CURE gains (career outcomes, cognitive gains)
- Realistic experimental design in a CURE
- Publishing in your CURE



Scholars Transforming through Research



Scholars Transforming Through Research
Council on Undergraduate Research's Advocacy Event

More than 50%
of participants at
STR identify as
female

Why apply to STR with your mentor or mentee?

- **Become a Research Advocate** – Learn how to effectively communicate the value of undergraduate research to policymakers and institutional leaders.
- **Gain Hands-On Advocacy Training** – Develop skills in public speaking, storytelling, and civic engagement to make a real impact.
- **Meet with Policymakers** – Take your research beyond the classroom by meeting with congressional representatives and their staff on Capitol Hill.
- **Enhance Your Professional Development** – Strengthen your resume and graduate school applications with a unique leadership and advocacy experience.
- **Join a National Network** – Connect with like-minded peers, faculty mentors, and research advocates from across the country.
- **Shape the Future of Research Funding** – Use your voice to influence policies that support undergraduate research at your institution and beyond.
- **Empower Your Community** – Bring back knowledge and strategies to support research opportunities for future students at your campus.

STR Impact



Tia Pandey

Public Health at Texas A&M University | Biomedical Informatics and Behavioral Sci...
2d · Edited

Honored to Represent [Texas A&M University School of Medicine](#) at CUR STR 2024-2025!

After five months of training with the [Council on Undergraduate Research](#) Scholars Transforming Through Research (CUR STR) 2024-2025 Cohort, my team—[Jessica Lan-Anh](#), [Katherine Ray](#), and I—had the incredible opportunity to advocate for undergraduate research and the FASD Respect Act, a bipartisan bill supporting individuals affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders.

We wrapped up the program by meeting with five congressional staffers from the offices of:

- 🚩 [Us Senator John Cornyn](#) (R-TX) – [Lucie Flowers](#)
- 🚩 Senator [Ted Cruz](#) (R-TX) – [Kathleen \(Daisy\) Bruce](#)
- 🚩 Representative [Marc Veasey](#) (D-TX-33) – [Sequoia Ragland, MPH](#)
- 🚩 Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX-10) – [Abigail Ashcraft](#)
- 🚩 [Representative Clay Higgins](#) (R-LA-3) – Daniel West

Representing Dr. [Rajesh Miranda](#) and Dr. [Siara Rouzer](#)'s lab and Texas A&M School of Medicine on Capitol Hill was an eye-opening experience, opening up new possibilities for the future.



👍❤️🗨️ 17 · 1 Comment



Katherine Ray

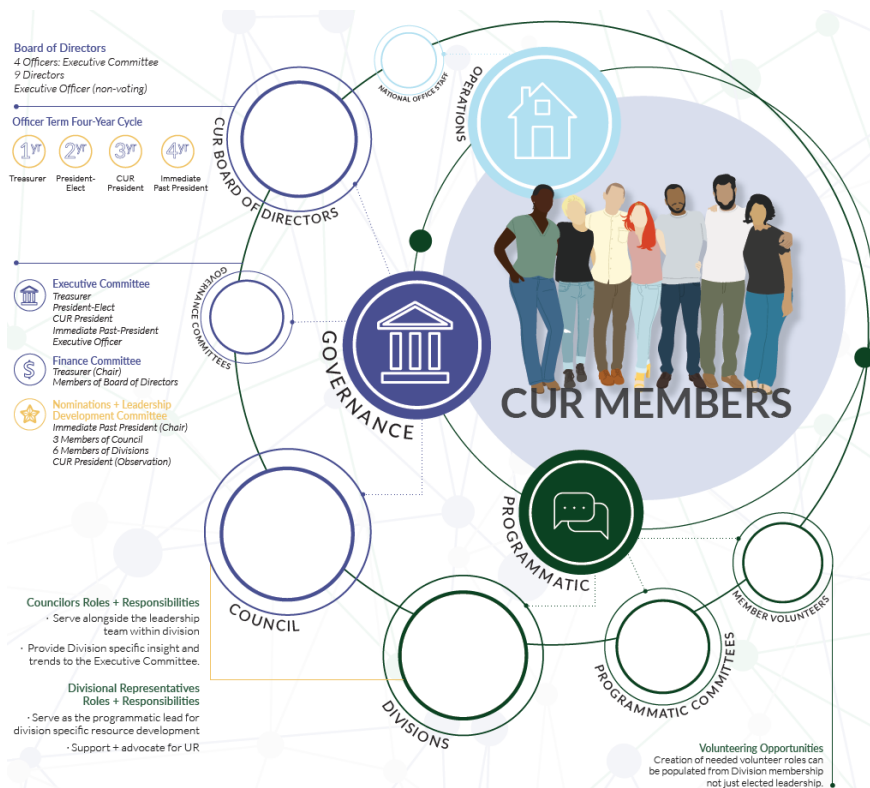
Neuroscience Honors Student | Aggie Research Scholar

1d ...

Thank you for giving us the chance to share our stories and develop our advocacy skills! This experience was so meaningful to my team and I, and it truly deepened my understanding of how research influences policy. ❤️

Leadership and Tiered Mentorship

More than 60% of the Board and the Council identifies as female



ConnectUR

Why Attend ConnectUR?

- **Designed for All Involved in Undergraduate Research** – Ideal for faculty, administrators, mentors, and research program leaders.
- **Practical & Actionable Takeaways** – Gain strategies to UR programs at your institution.
- **Engage with Experts & Peers** – Network with colleagues who share your passion for research mentorship and student success.
- **Innovative Sessions & Workshops** – Learn best practices in program development, funding, assessment, and student engagement.
- **Diverse Perspectives & Inclusive Conversations** – Explore UR through multiple lenses.
- **Opportunities for Professional Growth** – Develop leadership skills and take your mentoring and research support efforts to the next level.
- **Stay Ahead of Emerging Trends** – Discover new tools, policies, and research methodologies shaping the future of UR.

A photograph showing two women in a conference setting. One woman is wearing a green jumpsuit and glasses, and the other is wearing a light green top and a patterned skirt. They are looking at a small object, possibly a brochure or a small gift, together. The background shows other people and a modern interior with large windows and recessed lighting.

CONNECTUR
2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Monday, June 16 – Wednesday, June 18, 2025 – Onsite in Grand Rapids, MI
Tuesday, June 24 – Wednesday, June 25, 2025 – Online

Thank you.

resendkk@westminster.edu



- Diane Shakes
- Sandra Webster
- Liz Allison
- Ruth Palmer

- Robin McConahy 2010
- Jordan Richardson 2011
- Jasmine Grady 2011
- Casey Schmidt 2012
- Stephanie Woodward 2012
- Kaci Batzel 2012
- Ashley Grenet 2012
- Kelly Cholewa 2013
- Lauren Foltz 2013
- Amy Steinheiser 2013
- Christina Volsko 2014
- Brittany Colosimo 2014
- Gretchen Diffendel 2014
- Sara Broskin 2014
- Rebecca Anderson 2015
- Christy Campbell 2015
- Meredith Mishler 2016
- Kelly Higby 2016
- Melissa Bischak 2016
- Audrey Nickle 2017
- Abigail Arrigo 2018
- Alexis Arrigo 2018
- Carli Sebest 2019
- Emily D'Amico 2019
- Eve Terwiliger 2019
- Nina Silver 2020
- Taylor Gatesman 2020
- Julia Strobel 2021
- Rachael Woessner 2021
- Emily Lamark 2022
- Emilee Spozarski 2022
- Emma Stewart 2023
- Lauren Turturice 2023
- Emma Rudolph 2024
- Jocelyn Whalen 2024

