Low-Cost Initiatives for Promoting Undergraduate Research at Universities

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What to start with?

Introduce the OUR to your partners:
- Academic Programs Council
- Financial Aid Office
- Foundation
- Research Deans
- Student Success Center
- Career Development Center
- Student Affairs
- Academic Writing Center
- Smaller UR programs
- ….

Advertise the OUR on campus:
- Campus-wide email to all undergraduates
- Campus-wide email to all faculty
- Departmental meetings
- Students’ conferences
- New faculty fair
- Student clubs’ meetings
- Online
- ….
Continuous communication

- Create, Maintain, Use:
  - Students’ list
  - Faculty’s list
  - Advisers’ list
  - Program administrators
  - Departmental Chairs’ list
  - Higher Administrators’ list
  - ...

- Newsletters
- Event adds
- Recruitment
- Report outcomes
- Thank you notes
Workshops and presentations

➢ “Why should I look for UR experiences?”
➢ “How to find a research mentor?”
➢ “How to apply for a summer REU program?”
➢ “How to apply for the UR Symposium?”
➢ “How to create a research poster?”
➢ “How to present your research?”
➢ “How, where and when to apply for research funding?”
➢ “How to read research publications?”
➢ “How to write an abstract?”
➢ “How to write a personal statement?”
➢ “How to write a research paper?”
➢ “Research ethics”
➢ No cost
Research Seminars for Undergraduate Students

- IT IS NOT a CLASS! No registration! No grades!
- Ones per week seminar, 1 hour
- Two faculty present about their research
- Research opportunities
- Schedule is available online
- Can attend one, several or all seminars
- Reminders to faculty and students
- No cost
- Pizza may be provided
Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium

- All day event
- Individual and group research projects
- Mostly oral presentations (4 sessions, 10 rooms, 3-5)
- Small poster session (mostly for group projects)
- Online program with abstracts
- Faculty judges (about 120)
- Volunteers (about 80)
- Publishing at the digital depository

Cost
- Campus advertisement
- Program printing
- Catering for presenters and mentors
- Equipment rentals (laptops, projectors)
- Nametags
- Awards (optional)
Undergraduate Research Symposium in the Capitol

- Last Tuesday in March
- 3 State Universities, 60 research projects
- Preferences are given to Iowans about research related to Iowa
- Legislators are invited by letters
- Excuse letters for students
- Cost
  - Group transportation
  - Lunch
  - Program printing
  - Nametags
  - Poster printing
Research prepares you for careers you may never have dreamed of!