

**Subject:** Changes to the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP)

**From:** WSU Associate Provost <assocprovost@WAYNE.EDU>

**Date:** 1/17/2019, 2:49 PM

**To:** <FACULTY@LISTS.WAYNE.EDU>

[Read this email on the Web](#)



**Student Success**

Senior Associate Provost Monica Brockmeyer

Dear Deans, Directors, Faculty and Staff,

I am writing to announce changes to the support provided by the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). Undergraduate Research is known to be a high impact practice which contributes to many positive outcomes for students, including greater retention and degree attainment; oral and written communication, problem solving and information literacy skills; graduate school attainment and an increased sense of belonging within the institutions.

During the summer and fall, Matt Orr and I completed a review of UROP to evaluate the extent to which we were attaining our goals and aligning with the university's mission and student success strategic plan. We observed that while UROP students had very strong academic outcomes, we had not yet attracted into UROP a broad segment of the undergraduate population. In short, many students who could benefit from undergraduate research had not been participating.

A deeper examination of the situation led us to conclude that many talented undergraduate students would be better supported in undergraduate research opportunities with a broader array of supports than UROP is able to provide through an award mechanism. Therefore the Provost's Office is switching from directly funding undergraduate research to a partnership model with programs such as the McNair Scholars Program and various REU programs located throughout the university. By funding undergraduate research through these partnerships we believe that we will have a greater impact on our students and on our mission of student success.

The UROP program will continue to offer and fund opportunities for students to present their research. There will be a WSU campus wide Undergraduate Research and Creative Projects Conference every spring. This year's conference will be held in the Student Center on March 27, 2019. UROP will continue to provide full funding for students to present their research at the [National Conference on Undergraduate Research \(NCUR\)](#). UROP will also continue to provide partial funding, up to \$350, for students to present their research at one additional conference per fiscal year.

The UROP program will continue to maintain and provide support for the [UROPConnect website](#) in order to facilitate matching undergraduate student researchers with faculty.

UROP will also provide any faculty member a copy of the following Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) publications:

- How to Get Started in STEM Research with Undergraduates
- How to Get Started in Arts and Humanities Research with Undergraduates
- How to Mentor Undergraduate Researchers

I look forward to communicating our on-going partnerships as Undergraduate Research and UROP continue to evolve. I am also thankful to Dr. Bianca Suarez, under whose leadership we will be offering an expanded program in the McNair Scholars.

These kinds of changes are not easily made. I know that this change may mean a change to the way some other units support undergraduate research across the campus. I am also confident that re-evaluation of each of our programs in the light of evidence and our student success mission will continue to create opportunities for us to continue our remarkable student success transformation. I want to thank Matt Orr for his leadership of the UROP program over the past six years and I am especially gratified by his support for pursuing new models for UROP. Matt will continue to support the remaining UROP activities and will be contributing his expertise to a broader array of student success initiatives.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your contributions to undergraduate research and to our mission of student success.

Sincerely,

Monica Brockmeyer

Senior Associate Provost for Student Success

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

WARRIOR STRONG