

Dear Colleagues

**Save the date!**

**Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium April 13-14 in Colvard Student Union.**

This event is open to all undergraduate students engaged in research and provides the opportunity for students to showcase faculty-guided research and creative activity. Students from diverse departments, colleges, and research centers across campus and other universities participate in poster and oral presentation sessions.

Two important modifications from last year:

- **Replacing the main competition judging with use of comment cards.** Students provided positive feedback about the use of comment cards during the past summer showcase. These were noted as being helpful for their growth as researchers, for providing timely feedback, for being inclusive of varied types of audiences (from research specialists to peers to other research consumers). So, our sponsorship and efforts will be devoted to supporting this activity. **We will be soliciting help from faculty, research staff, and graduate students to visit URS projects and to provide comments to student researchers.**
- **Request for proposals for new Special Area Competitions.** We recognize that competitions can be motivating and judging for these are best handled by experts in specific fields. Competitions beyond the general categories can be more meaningful and better evaluated. In addition, much research cuts across disciplines and maybe theme driven, and Special Area Competitions can best evaluate that work. **Departments, colleges, and other units are encouraged to consider planning and supporting a Special Area Competition. If interested in more information, email [urcd@msstate.edu](mailto:urcd@msstate.edu) for a fact sheet about Special Area Competitions. Deadline to get involved is *Nov 15*.**

In addition, the spring and summer Undergraduate Research Symposia at MSU have been hallmark events for our students and growing in popularity. This past year featured 288 projects and over 400 visitors. These events cost approximately \$20,000 annually to host. We appreciate funds to help with the costs. **To help sponsor the Undergraduate Research symposium events, email Corrine Jackson at [cjackson@honors.msstate.edu](mailto:cjackson@honors.msstate.edu)**

**If you have questions, contact Dr. Anastasia Elder, [ace24@msstate.edu](mailto:ace24@msstate.edu) and 662.325.8503**

For more information on the Undergraduate Research Symposium and to visit previous abstract booklets, visit: <https://www.honors.msstate.edu/research/undergraduate-research-symposium/>

For infographic flyer on the Spring 2022 event, see:

<https://www.honors.msstate.edu/sites/www.honors.msstate.edu/files/URS%202022%20Info%20-%20Final%20%281%29.pdf>