



WE ARE

CUR

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

SHINE A LIGHT ON...

progress



With the completion of 2021, I reflect on another year that has challenged humanity. Many are still filled with uncertainty, tired, and overwhelmed. And yet, as I take some time to think about all that the CUR community has accomplished in the last year, the thousands of students that have been supported and guided, benefiting from all your hard work and dedication, I feel inspired and hopeful. I have gotten to a place where I am funneling the uncertainty into an exercise to evaluate the situational opportunity. This is a time to try new things, reevaluate how and why we do things, and be sure what we do aligns with the needs of the community. The work of this community provides light for the future and reminds us of the brighter days ahead.

Let's shine a light on those bright days. CUR hosted its largest community educational event ever this year. Dr. Buffie Longmire-Avital, serving as our conference guide, lead nearly 700 attendees through a three-day Centering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry Conference. It was a moving, emotional, and enlightening event. We look forward to extending the conversation in 2022 at the ConnectUR Conference. In fact, many of CUR's programs and events held record attendance. The access of virtual offerings allowed us to reach parts of the community who had never engaged so deeply before. We look forward to seeing many of you again in-person, but the team is working diligently to make our programs flexible and multi modal in an effort to meet the community where it is.

At CUR, we know the power undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry has to enrich undergraduate education and help all students achieve their academic and career goals while gaining and expanding critical skills. In an effort to align our organizational goals and mission, a process began in August 2020, when 2020-2021 CUR President, Silvia Ronco, charged a task force to revise the CUR definition of undergraduate research. The purpose was to reflect the current spectrum of undergraduate research activities while making it more inclusive of a wider representation of student and mentor demographics, types of institutions, and disciplinary fields. After several months of surveying, interviewing, validating, and refining, the following framing language and revised definition of undergraduate research was adopted by the CUR Executive Board:

Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry is fundamentally a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge.

This work reflects CUR's strategic goals, and we hope that the broadened definition may assist individuals and institutions as they establish new undergraduate research programs, contemplate enhancements to their existing programs, and support our community as they do outreach to partners and collaborators.

This was but a small highlight of all CUR accomplished this year, the following pages will shine the light on other amazing undertakings from the community. The energy, dedication, and enthusiasm of our community, members, volunteers, and National Office staff is a light too powerful to be dimmed. I look forward to all that we can accomplish together in 2022.

Yours in service,

Lindsay

Lindsay Currie, CAE

President QUESTION CORNER

WHAT ARE YOU MOST
HOPEFUL FOR IN THE
FUTURE OF CUR?

SILVIA RONCO
*Research Corporation for
Science Advancement (RCSA)*

I am hopeful that CUR will adapt the content/emphasis of programs/initiatives to support elements of undergraduate research closely related with the ever-changing needs of the future workforce, and that by anticipating these needs, CUR will serve as a resource for faculty and institutions while working on educational priorities emphasizing evidence-based, high-impact practices.



RUTH PALMER
*The College of New Jersey
(TCNJ) - Emeritus*

I am excited about continuing to collaborate with this community to advance its mission and vision in our changing and challenging environment and to find our own resilience.



JEANNE MEKOLICHICK
Radford University

I am very proud of the work the executive board is accomplishing this year as we aim to create a diverse and robust leadership stream, strengthen our organization's future planning so we are nimbler and more proactive as we engage with the changing landscape of higher education, and lead the conversation on nexus of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry, career-readiness, and early talent acquisition. With this direction and planning, I am excited about how CUR will continue to support our faculty, students, institutions, and our communities in deeper and more impactful ways.



LOOKING TO
SHINE A LIGHT ON...

- 2 PROGRESS
- 4 LEADERS
- 8 COMMUNITY
- 10 ACTION
- 12 UNDERGRADUATE
RESEARCH
- 15 EXCELLENCE

executive **BOARD**



SILVIA RONCO
Research Corporation for
Science Advancement
Immediate Past-President



RUTH PALMER
The College of New Jersey -
Emeritus
President-Elect



LINDA BLOCKUS
University of Missouri -
Columbia
Council Rep



MARIA IACULLO-BIRD
Pace University
Council Rep



NIHARIKA NATH
New York Institute
of Technology - Old Westbury
Council Rep



CHARLOTTE SIMMONS
University of Central Oklahoma
Council Rep



BINOD TIWARI
California State
University - Fullerton
Council Rep



JOHN BARTHELL
University of Central Oklahoma
General Rep



JENNIFER THORINGTON-SPRINGER
Indiana University -
Purdue University Indianapolis
General Rep



JEANNE MEKOLICHICK
Radford University
President



KAREN HAVHOLM
University of Wisconsin -
Eau Claire
Treasurer



SARAH K. JOHNSON
Moravian College
Council Rep



KYMBERLY HARRIS
Georgia Southern University
Council Rep



KAREN RESENDES
Westminster College
Council Rep



NICOLE SNYDER
Davidson College
Council Rep



DONNA CHARLEVOIX
UNAVCO
General Rep



BETH CUNNINGHAM
American Association
of Physics Teachers
General Rep

**NATIONAL
OFFICE**
Team



LINDSAY CURRIE
Executive Officer



HEATHER WAKEFIELD
Sr. Director - Program
Strategy, Development
+ Design



ELIZABETH MORIS
Director
Brand Engagement



PAMELA DODGE
Sr. Manager
Finance + Operations



AUSTEN GAGE
Sr. Manager
Member + Community
Experience



LIZ HAINS
Manager
Events + Programs



NATALIE JONES
Manager
Customer Experience



TODD WAGGONER
Coordinator
Communications



LUKE ZIMMER
Technology Support
Partner

SHINE A LIGHT ON...
Leadership



JEANNE MEKOLICHICK
Radford University

Living through the pandemic has been challenging for us all. While the specifics of those challenges vary across individuals, pandemic layers have weighed on our daily experiences playing out in a multitude of ways. Sharing resources, trouble-shooting challenges, and offering navigational advice have long been strengths of our community that were fore fronted in this time of COVID. And, so importantly, at least for me, CUR has continued to be a place where I can laugh, find support and care.

President
**QUESTION
CORNER**

**SINCE THE PANDEMIC,
WHAT HAS STOOD OUT
TO YOU THE MOST
ABOUT CUR?**

DIVISIONS + COUNCILORS

10400+

DIVISION MEMBERS

13

DIVISIONS

271

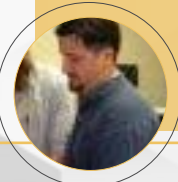
COUNCILORS



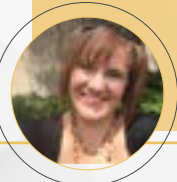
ARTS + HUMANITIES
Alexa Sand, chair



AT-LARGE
Graeme Harper, chair



BIOLOGY
Lance Barton, chair



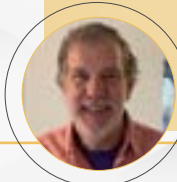
CHEMISTRY
Amy Deveau, chair



EDUCATION
Kymberly Harris, chair



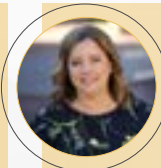
ENGINEERING
Heather Dillon, chair



GEOSCIENCES
Mark Lord, chair



HEALTH SCIENCES
Leanne Laubach, chair



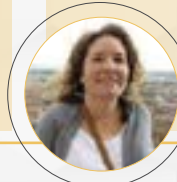
MATH + COMPUTER SCIENCES
Andrea Tartaro, Bruce Blaine co-chairs



PHYSICS + ASTRONOMY
Toni Sauncy, chair



PSYCHOLOGY
Karen Gunther, chair



SOCIAL SCIENCES
Leslie Cecil, chair



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMS
Timothy Raines, chair

TOTAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

286

ANNUAL CONFERENCE KNOWLEDGE + COMMUNITY BUILDING ADVISORY

ADVOCACY + STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

ARTS + HUMANITIES ENDOWMENT MENTOR AWARD

CAMPUS-WIDE AWARD FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS (AURA)

CONSTITUTION + BYLAWS

CUR FELLOWS

CUR-GOLDWATER FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION

FINANCE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON UNDERGRADUAE RESEARCH OVERSIGHT (NOC)

NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS VETTING

POSTERS ON THE HILL (POH) REVIEW

PROGRAM REVIEW

SCHOLARSHIP + PRACTICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (SPUR) EDITORIAL

CENTERING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, + INCLUSION IN UNDERGRADUATE RE-SEARCH + CREATIVE ACTIVITY (CENTERING DEI)

COMMITTEES

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER WORK

NCUR REVIEWERS, PRESENTERS + FACULTY FACILITATORS

POH REVIEWERS

CENTERING DE+I REVIEWERS + PRESENTERS

SPUR AUTHORS, EDITORS, + REVIEWERS

CUR CONVERSATION FACILITATORS

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

1100+

+ VOLUNTEERS

President QUESTION CORNER

WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU WISHED YOU WOULD HAVE KNOWN WHEN YOU FIRST JOINED CUR?

RUTH PALMER
TCNJ - Emeritus

What I needed to know about CUR unfolded itself as I participated in its programs and activities. That participation informed my goals at the time: (a) to learn from an already established community about the effective conduct of mentored undergraduate research, and (b) to advocate within that community for the adoption of additional divisions into the CUR structure.

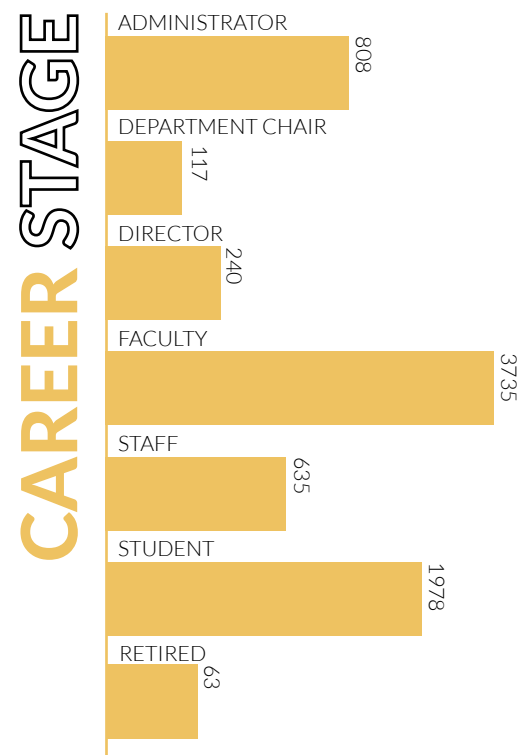
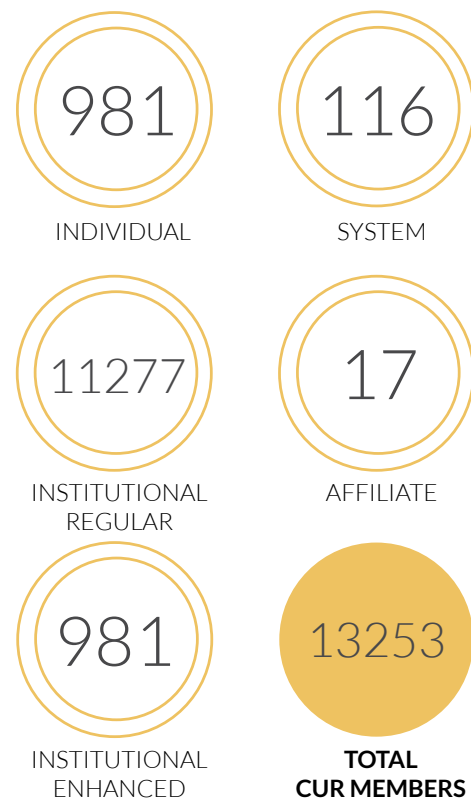


SILVIA RONCO
RCSA

I was pretty naive when I first joined CUR. Back then my main focus was to share my faculty experience with other members, especially with those who were just starting to build their programs. But being exposed to so many levels of interactions (faculty from all different disciplines, higher ed administrators and students) taught me how well positioned we are to help shape educational priorities in colleges and universities across the country. Partnering with the right organizations and not reinventing the wheel are critical for broader reach, visibility, and impact. Lastly, the impact of UR in the lives of students of all backgrounds and disciplines is phenomenal, and that impact is even higher in students from underrepresented groups who often struggle to find a sense of belonging and supportive communities.

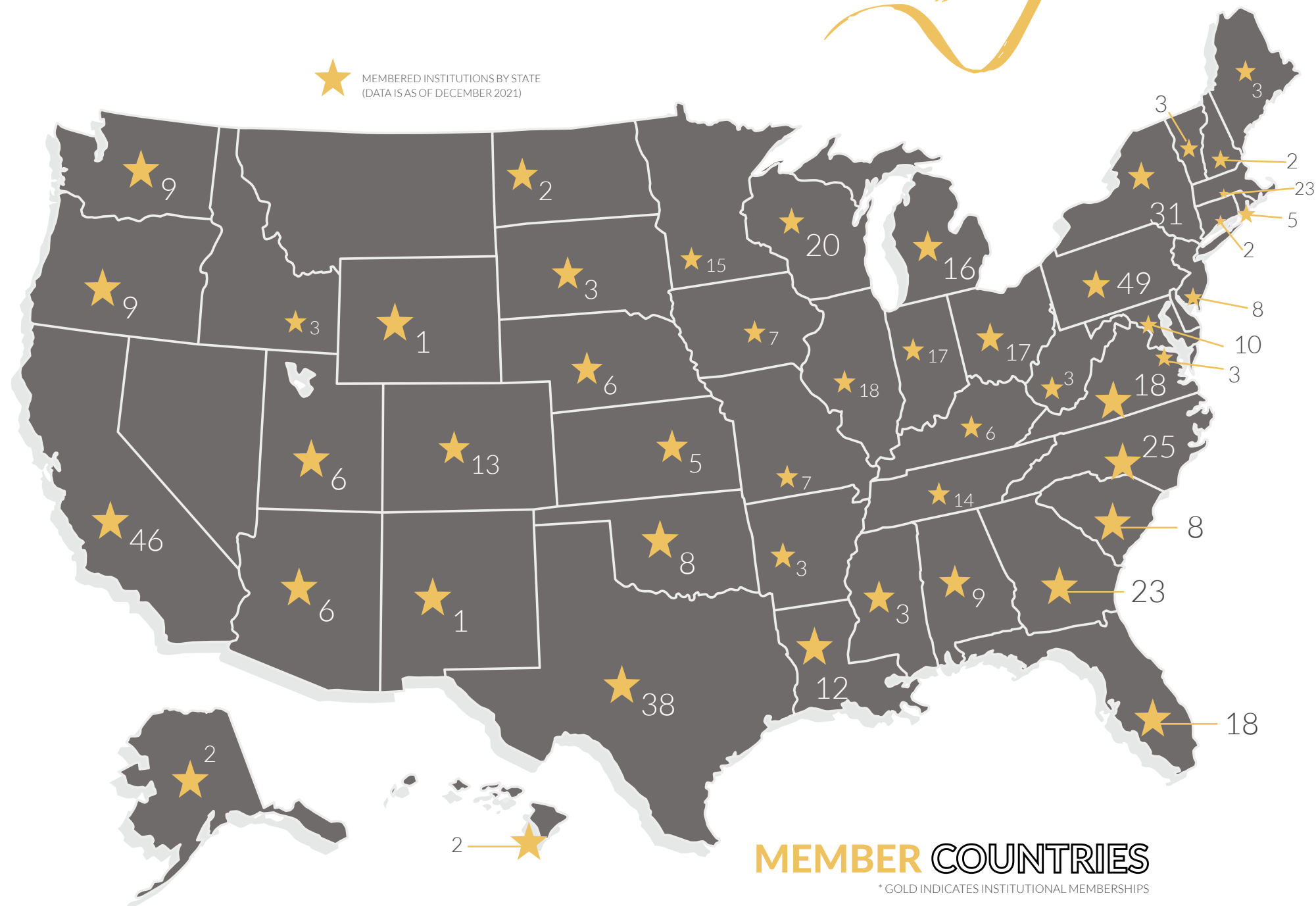


MEMBERSHIP TYPE



SHINE A LIGHT ON...

community



MEMBER COUNTRIES

* GOLD INDICATES INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

AUSTRALIA	LITHUANIA	TRINIDAD +	UNITED
BELGIUM	MEXICO	TOBAGO	KINGDOM
CANADA	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY	VENEZUELA
CHINA	PERU	UNITED ARAB	VIETNAM
EGYPT	QATAR	EMIRATES	
GERMANY	SINGAPORE	USA	
JAPAN	THAILAND		

24

SHINE A LIGHT ON...

action

GOVERNANCE DESIGN TASK FORCE

"The Governance Design Task Force is undertaking a holistic look at the different governance units across the organization. We hope that at the end of this process, we will have a clearer and simpler governance structure that is more inclusive, allows broader participation and leverages the talent of our members. By having clearly defined charges, roles and responsibilities, CUR will offer plenty of opportunities for member participation and leadership development." - Silvia Ronco, RCSA

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

What is this? A weekly newsletter released from CUR's advocacy partner to inform our members of new legislature and happenings on the Hill in regards to higher education.

36
issues

ADVOCACY TOOLKIT

CUR worked together with the CUR Advocacy committee and Bose Washington Partners to provide CUR members with important information to encourage advocating for undergraduate research. There are elected lawmakers in US congress, the White House, state capitols, and city halls that are making decisions that affect undergraduate research. In 2021, CUR released the updated CUR 2021 Advocacy Toolkit. It is a collection of materials, resources, and advice that will guide you through telling the story of your undergraduate research to leaders and stakeholders in your community, to make a difference.

PRESIDENT'S QUARTERLY

4 per member year

44% Open Rate

14% Click Rate

27% Forward Rate

President QUESTION CORNER

HOW HAS ENGAGING WITH CUR BEEN BENEFICIAL TO YOU?

CORE VALUES

Excellence in all that we do.

Respect + Integrity in all of our interactions

Flexibility, responsiveness, + innovation in our implementation

Recognizing + valuing difference in our community

NEW: UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH DEFINITION

Undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry is fundamentally a pedagogical approach to teaching and learning. With an emphasis on process, CUR defines undergraduate research as: A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge.



SILVIA RONCO RCSA

CUR was truly transformational and came at the right time in my faculty career when I was an Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of South Dakota. While I had been prepared and well-mentored by Royce Engstrom, I was not aware of how beneficial my interactions with other CUR members would be, and not only in my discipline (Chemistry) but across the organization. The opportunity to meet your peers from all over the country is invaluable, as it is the opportunity to be mentored by more experienced members and to serve as a mentor yourself.

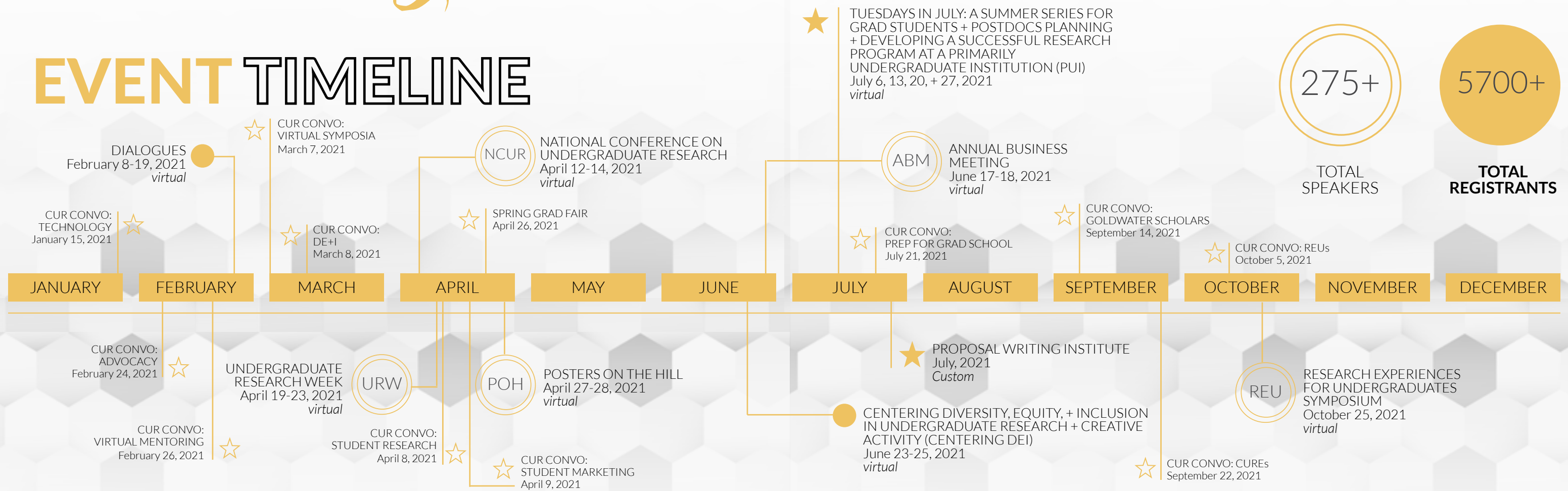
JEANNE MEKOLICHICK Radford University

CUR has been pivotal in my development, both as a faculty member and an administrator, who values and seeks to advance and institutionalize undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry. Having a diverse set of mentors with significant depth and breadth of varied experiences continues to help me navigate the puzzles presented in administration with a keen eye toward supporting our students and faculty.



SHINE A LIGHT ON... *undergraduate research*

EVENT TIMELINE



MEANING BEHIND

DIALOGUES

CUR Dialogues is designed to provide the undergraduate research community an opportunity to discuss the many available possibilities of funding and grants with federal agency program officers and other grant funders. Being able to learn how to successfully write a grant proposal and speak to funders is invaluable.

NCUR

NCUR is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference for students. 2021 was the first ever virtual iteration of this event and it spanned over 3 full days of oral, poster, gallery art, and fine art presentations. This conference continues to welcome student scholars from all institutions and disciplines. NCUR creates a unique environment for the celebration and helps to improve the state of undergraduate education.

URW

Undergraduate Research Week is nationally celebrated at higher education institutions. In 2021, multiple recognition posts, newsletters, and a large, virtual celebration of award recipients took place. CUR encouraged all institutions to recognize what was happening on their campuses and to connect to the community through different avenues.

POH

POH 2021 was a fun drop-in style virtual poster showcase hosted on Zoom. Participants enjoyed a welcome reception, the opportunity to connect virtually with their members of Congress, as well as the opportunity to present their research to other students, faculty, staff, administrators, federal legislators and their staff, key federal program officers, and more.

ABM

In 2021, CUR's governance meeting was more compressed to make it more accessible for all elected councilors. The meeting consisted of a report to council, DEI training, session on collaboration on action plans, committee and division meetings, and a celebration of the membership year.

CENTERING DEI

Orchestrated by the URP Division and the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, this conference was a step in response to the national call for awareness and action on diversity, equity, and inclusion. It served as a platform for professionals to share, learn, listen, and grow in areas of this integrated focus, in order to adequately contribute to the ongoing transformation of the undergraduate research environment on campuses.

REU

This symposium acts as a practical skills session for student researchers who participated in an REU funded by the National Science Foundation. Each student is given the opportunity to present their research and network amongst program officers, faculty members, and other students.

Update on GRANT NSF-DUE IUSE 16-25354

The CUR Transformations (CURTP) project is now in its sixth year and the PI's continued to engage with the 24 departments that are involved in the project. Despite the challenges of COVID that moved the work online, enormous impacts on curriculum, departmental culture, and the research questions that drive the project occurred in the biology, chemistry, physics, and psychology departments represented. Many of the departments reported moving their efforts forward towards creating a fully scaffolded, research rich curriculum.

The project involved a number of activities to assist teams from the campuses in advancing their transformational changes. Although we had to cancel our yearly in-person meeting, teams were able to participate in a series of web-based meetings in November 2020, as well as January and March 2021. The site visits done by the consultants who assist the campus teams moved their visits to online versions. Newsletters detailing concepts that drive the project goals were shared along with a series of webinars on topics that touch on this research project.

Many of the participating departments are now sharing their outcomes by giving presentations to other departments on their campus and at national meetings along with publications detailing their work. The PIs on the project are working on developing a Theory of Change Model that outlines the factors that seem to be in place for real change to take hold. Their initial thoughts, "Scaffolding Research into Undergraduate STEM Curricula and Cultures: An Emerging Model for Systemic Change," were published in a monograph last year and this serves as their framework for a Theory of Change model. Despite the challenges, 23 of the teams and all of the consultants have stayed on for a no-cost extension year that will continue through August 2022. We are all forging ahead in Year 6 of the project.

CUR Transformations Principal Investigators

Mitch Malachowski, University of San Diego
Elizabeth Ambos, Independent Consultant
Lindsay Currie, Executive Officer of CUR
Kerry Karukstis, Harvey Mudd College
Jillian Kinzie, Indiana University
Jeffrey Osborn, The College of New Jersey

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

523

NEW
FOLLOWERS

75,000+

TOTAL
ENGAGEMENT
VIEWS

130+

YOUTUBE
VIDEOS

CUR COMMUNITY

1600+

FIRST TIME
LOGINS

11600+

LIBRARY
VIEWS

1700+

DISCUSSION
POSTS

SPUR JOURNAL

4

2021
RELEASED
ISSUES

65+

SPUR
REVIEWERS

125+

TOTAL
AUTHORS

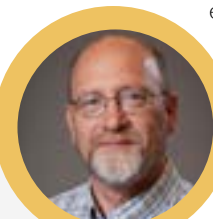
SHINE A LIGHT ON...

excellence

CUR-GOLDWATER SCHOLARS
FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

DOMINICK J. CASADONTE, JR.

This Minnie Stevens Piper Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, has been selected as the 2021 Council on Undergraduate Research-Goldwater Scholars Faculty Mentor Awardee. The award consists of a plaque and \$5,000 for the awardee's research program and/or undergraduate researchers. Casadonte was honored for his achievements in mentoring nearly 90 undergraduates and 16 high school students in summer research programs. Casadonte, who specializes in inorganic and materials chemistry, earned his BS in chemistry with honors at Case Western Reserve University, and his MS in physical chemistry and PhD in inorganic chemistry at Purdue University. He completed his postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois.



ARTS + HUMANITIES
ENDOWMENT FUND:
FACULTY MENTOR AWARD

GREGORY YOUNG



Gregory Young, professor in the School of Music and founding director of the Undergraduate Scholars Program at Montana State University in Bozeman, has been selected as the 2021 CUR-Arts and Humanities Faculty Mentor Awardee. The award consists of a plaque and \$1,000 for the recipient's work with undergraduate researchers. In addition to working with undergraduates on collaborative projects, he played a crucial part as vice provost for undergraduate education in requiring research of all undergraduates—the first public university to do so—and established Montana State's McNair Scholars Program to encourage underrepresented students to engage in research. Young has lectured or performed on five continents and is a clarinetist with the Intermountain Opera and Bozeman Symphony Orchestras.

20+

DIVISIONAL
AWARDS

90+

DIVISIONAL
AWARD
RECIPIENTS

President QUESTION CORNER

HOW HAS CUR SURPRISED YOU THIS PAST YEAR?

JEANNE MEKOLICHICK *Radford University*

This is a hard one. I'm not sure I've been particularly surprised by CUR. The talents and expertise of the National Office was highlighted and the depth of commitment of our volunteers were revealed in ways I expected. For me, what has been instructive and encouraging is the reach of CUR during the pandemic. As CUR and many other organizations opened access to resources during the pandemic, the number of folks utilizing the resources of our community calls us to consider this data as we think about the future.



SILVIA RONCO *RCSA*

What definitely surprised me was CUR's ability to continue delivering high-quality programming and supporting the needs of our members, even when facing the myriad of challenges brought in by the pandemic. Nobody was prepared for being sent home for such a long period of time! We are a small organization, and the fact that CUR remained optimistic, courageous, nimble, and adaptable is an indication of the immense power of collaborative efforts and teamwork. It also showed the organization's resilience and the importance of "being there" given the circumstances over perfection. Pandemic disruptions changed us, but never stopped us.



RUTH PALMER *TCNJ - Emeritus*

It is significant that amid the challenges of the past year, that the National Office under the leadership of the CEO, has been able to maintain such flexible functionality.

