

Low-Cost Strategies for Promoting Undergraduate Research at Research Universities

8:45-10:15 AM; Thursday, January 22, 2010; Washington, DC

American Association of Colleges and Universities – The Wit, the Will, & the Wallet

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Overview – Allison Snow
Note - We will collect cards from the audience with “burning questions” and “strategies to share” for discussion after the presentations.
2. Ohio State University – Allison Snow and Helene Cweren
Low-cost strategies: Peer research contacts, Summer Undergraduate Research Institute
3. University of Washington – Janice DeCosmo
Low-cost strategies: Campus-wide symposium cost-cutting strategies; Volunteers, online publications; Efficient advising in groups/workshops
4. University of California at Irvine – Said Shokair
Low-cost strategies: Online resources; data base and web applications
5. Discussion and Wrap-up - All panelists and audience
Address burning questions and strategies to share, using cards from the audience

CONTACT INFORMATION

Ohio State University – www.undergraduateresearch.osu.edu

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Undergraduate Research Office

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Dr. Janice DeCosmo, Director - jdecosmo@u.washington.edu

Undergraduate Research Program

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For more on undergraduate research see the **Council on Undergraduate Research**

(<http://www.cur.org/>); CUR is hosting a reception today at 5:00 PM Friday in Lafayette Park; also see

AAC&U Sessions at 4:15 PM Thursday, 2:45 PM Friday (two sessions), & 4:15 PM Friday.

ABSTRACT

Low-Cost Strategies for Promoting Undergraduate Research at Research Universities

This session will explore economical and effective ways in which universities can promote undergraduate research experiences. Nationally, there is a growing trend for universities to establish a central, campus-wide office that coordinates opportunities for research-related activities in all academic disciplines. By coordinating efforts across campus and utilizing web-based resources, central offices can support a wide variety of initiatives that encourage the integration of research and learning at the undergraduate level. Central offices complement other efforts on campus that may be more departmental or disciplinary in focus.

Many of the following activities of a central undergraduate research office can be offered at low-cost, funded collaboratively, or funded through external grants or gifts. For example, in addition to one-on-one advising, our programs offer more group sessions – through workshops, seminars, small groups – which can reach students more efficiently. These sessions provide:

- Inspiration for students to seek rewarding research experiences;
- Assistance with identifying research opportunities and mentors;
- Guidance on applying for funding through internal or external scholarships and awards;
- Instruction on becoming a professional, the ethical conduct of research, and understanding the research process.

Efficiency can also be gain in work with faculty by providing workshops and online resources that offer:

- Guidance on successful mentoring practices;
- Assistance with grant applications that include undergraduate research funds or supplements;
- Strategies for recruiting and selecting students for specific research opportunities;
- Support for including research experiences in courses or in designing capstone research experiences.

In addition, with modest and/or collaborative internal or external funding, a central office for undergraduate research can offer an annual Undergraduate Research Forum or Symposium, provide opportunities for students to publish their work in print or online journals, and introduce students to the review process by integrating them into this work as co-planners, editors, and reviewers. Taken together, all of these efforts interact to raise students' expectations, enrich their education, and increase recognition of faculty and academic units that invest in undergraduate research.

This session features panelists who lead undergraduate research offices at three large research universities – **Ohio State University**, the **University of Washington**, and the **University of California at Irvine**. Panelists will share strategies and models for achieving the outcomes described above, with particular emphasis on today's research university environment of strained budgets and lower staffing levels. Each panelist will present a brief history of their program and highlight lessons learned about efficiencies, cost savings, and coping with recent budget declines, while maintaining access to quality research experiences for students. Members of the audience will be encouraged to contribute to an open discussion of common goals and successful practices.