INCLUSIVENESS IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH: ADVANCING ACCESS IN NON-TRADITIONAL WAYS

Benefits to undergraduates engaging in research:
- enriched student learning and retention through mentored relationships with faculty
- increased self-confidence
- enhanced skills in critical thinking and problem solving

Students under-represented in undergraduate research:
- first and second year students
- students from traditionally underrepresented racial/ethnic groups
- low-income students
- first-generation students
- students from humanities, social sciences, and arts

Typical beneficiaries:
- high-achieving students
- juniors and seniors
- students in STEM fields

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Innovative Approaches

- Target recruitment – early career students
- Facilitation of early career students – faculty connections
- Modification of criteria for participant selection
- Exposure to role models from under-represented categories
- Multi-disciplinary team approach

How Challenges Were Addressed

- Student mentoring by program alumni
- New approaches for supporting transfer students
- Program modification based on student and faculty feedback
- Collaborations with partners across campus

Program Sponsors:
- Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and the Arts: Division of Undergraduate Studies, Oregon State University (http://undergraduate.oregonstate.edu/research)
- OSU STEM Leaders Program: NSF (Award #1432810), Research Office, Colleges of Science, Agricultural Sciences, and Engineering, Oregon State University (http://stemleaders.oregonstate.edu/)
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