

## **Highlights & Accomplishments as Undergraduate Research Center Director 2014-2017**

*As URC Director I was responsible for advancing and assessing the mission of the URC which is to actively engage faculty and students in mentoring relationships that enable students to participate directly in the research process from its inception through the dissemination of new knowledge so that students ultimately view themselves as participants in a community of scholars. The position reports directly to the Associate Vice President of Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dr. Barry Ries.*

*The Center assists students in identifying faculty mentors, offers two grant cycles for undergraduates seeking funding for research (fall and spring), supports the Undergraduate Research Symposium, hosts an on-line peer reviewed journal, and provides leadership for undergraduate research with collaborating MN State colleges and universities. The director and center also encourages undergraduate presentations at local, regional, national and international meetings. The following describe my major contributions to the university and broader community.*

- Work with an advisory council of faculty at MSU, Mankato representing diverse disciplines (and the six academic colleges) to develop programs and services that support a wide range of research and scholarly activities.
- Work with an advisory council of students who collaborate with the URC as ambassadors for undergraduate research and scholarly activities.
- Provide oversight for the Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS) while working closely with the URS coordinator. Activities usually include poster and oral presentations, evaluation rubric for presentations, a celebration dinner, and selection of a key note speaker, best student presentations, art exhibit opening, and Best Faculty Mentor award.
- Provide leadership for the system-wide MN Undergraduate Scholars council. The council was formed with the goal of providing intercampus engagement for faculty and students and building pipelines between campuses in support of research and scholarly activities.
- Work in collaboration with MN Undergraduate Scholars council to plan and market the MN Undergraduates Scholars regional conference and Posters at St. Paul, which are held annually.
- Oversight of the National Conference of Undergraduate Research applications, registration, presentation preparation and travel.
- Promote scholarly and creative achievement through the website, recognition events, and other mechanisms designed to showcase student and faculty scholarly activities.

- Work collaboratively with Honors Program and Fellowship Directors to share space in the *The Center for Undergraduate Scholars* and determine best practices to showcase faculty and student research and creative achievement.
- Collaborate with university partners (e.g., Advancement, Institutional Research, CESR, Concurrent Enrollment) to promote opportunities for scholarly achievement.
- Organize and coordinate the awarding of travel grants, URC grants and Foundations grants in support of research and scholarly activities, as well as conference presentations.
- Hire and supervise Graduate Assistants who provide support for all URC activities.
- In 2016-2017 I collaborated with Graduate Studies and Research to hold the *1<sup>st</sup> Annual Faculty Student Publication Recognition*. We held a ceremony honoring nearly 50 faculty and their students. Faculty were provided an award of recognition.