

Dear Colleagues,

I'd like to share with you some immediate information on the campus-wide undergraduate research programs URCAD, (URA), UMBC Review, and summer research opportunities. I hope you will encourage students to participate in these programs.

1. Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the University Center. Typically at least a few students from our department present each year. Last year's student project [abstracts](#) can be found online. I hope we have undergraduates who are currently working on these or other independent research that can be presented this year. Disseminating the results of completed research is a key professional-development experience for our students. Online applications are due from students by February 25, 2015. All students with mentor support for presenting their work can participate in URCAD.

2. The Undergraduate Research Awards (URA) program allows students to apply for up to \$1,500 in funding to support their independent research this summer and/or during the upcoming academic year. This would be ideal for a student pursuing a senior or honors thesis. Funding can be used for fees, supplies, travel, or other expenses, as well as to provide a stipend for the student researcher. Two page applications are due by February 26, 2015 @ 5pm. Typically, successful student applicants have close support and advice from a faculty mentor when crafting their proposals. Participation in the URA proposal process gives students valuable experience and preparation for graduate school or work responsibilities in proposal writing.

3. The annual student research journal [UMBC Review](#) includes research or scholarship by students from all UMBC disciplines. Manuscripts are accepted year round. Any manuscripts submitted by September 13th will be considered for this year's edition. About 11 student articles appear in each edition of the Review.

4. [Summer Research](#) opportunities (many paid) can be found online. Applications are often due in February. It is helpful to our students if all faculty can encourage them to consider these programs. For those faculty who use .ppt in their classes, a presentation is available on our faculty resources page and may be appropriate to project for students. For those who use Blackboard, a packet of information on undergraduate research can be imported in a few clicks. If you would like a flier or other printed material, Janet McGlynn (mcglynn@umbc.edu, 5-5754) in the Office of Undergraduate Education can provide these.

I can be a resource for our department regarding these programs. You may also contact Janet McGlynn who manages many of the undergraduate research programs. I look forward to involving more of our students in these programs.