



**WVU Office of  
Undergraduate Research  
2025 Annual Report**

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# EXPERIENCE DISCOVERY

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## UGR 10-Year Anniversary!

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Over the last 10 years we've connected thousands of undergraduates, connecting them with university-wide, nation-wide and global opportunities, as well as established year-round research experiences to train future generations of leaders in research.

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@wvu\_ugresearch



@WVU\_UGResearch

# 2025

## HIGHLIGHTS

**479 Undergrads Advised**

**6 Mentor  
Awards**

**37 NCUR  
Presenters**

**AURA Award Recipient**

**65 SURE Participants**

**306 RAP  
Participants**

**365 Symposia  
Presenters**

**135 Federal Work  
Study Recipients**

# Council on Undergraduate Research: **The AURA Award**

The Award for Undergraduate Research Accomplishments (AURA) was awarded to WVU by the National Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) recognizing WVU's excellence in programs and initiatives that engage undergraduates in research and creative work.

WVU undergrad researchers share their stories:



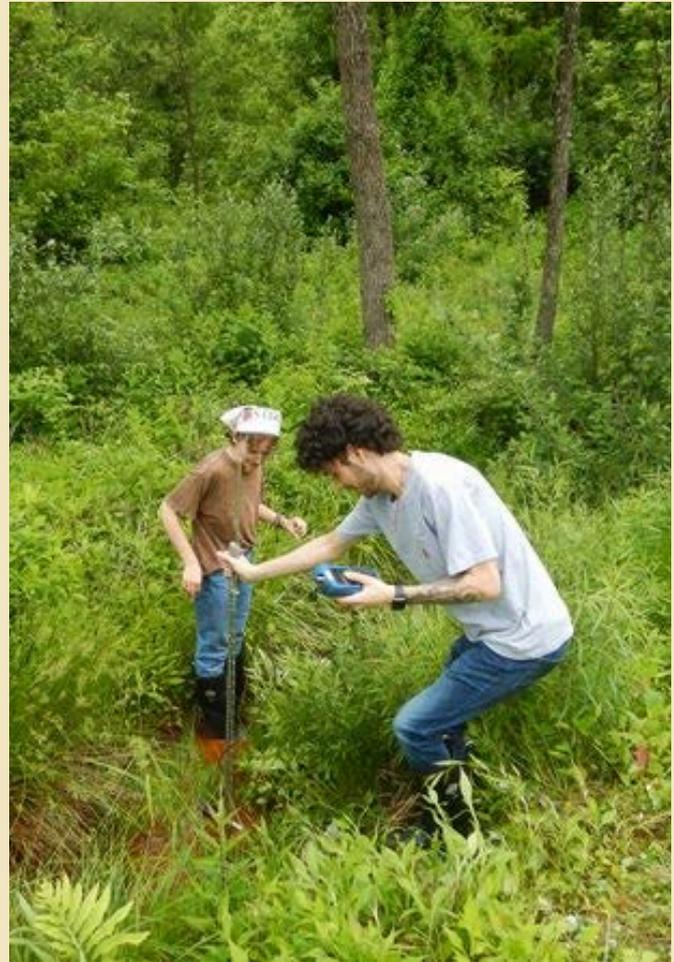
# RAP

## Research Apprenticeship Program



# RAP

**RAP is a multidisciplinary undergraduate research program designed to immerse students in the world of research. Over two semesters, participants gain hands-on experience in a field of their choice, strengthen their communication skills, and build connections with researchers at all levels.**



**Since 2017, RAP has been an excellent resource for students looking to get their start in research.**

**Participating students have the opportunity for paid research through federal work study funding.**



# SURE

## Summer Undergraduate Research Experience



# Summer Undergraduate Research Experience

SURE is an 8-week, full-time, paid research experience. In 2025, 65 students received funding to advance their research.



SURE is open to students of all disciplines with a focus on students pursuing graduate school and careers in research.

# Symposia

The Office of Undergraduate Research hosts three research symposia on WVU's campus each year: Spring, Summer, and Fall. These symposia are opportunities for students to showcase their research and receive feedback from peers, mentors, graduate students, and faculty.



# Spring: 165 Presenters



# Summer: 123 Presenters



# Fall: 77 Presenters





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## Travis Stimeling Award for Mentoring Undergraduates in Research

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Recognizing and rewarding faculty and graduate students for their commitment to mentoring undergraduates in research and creative work.

# 2025 Award Winners



**Angela Uriyo**, assistant professor  
of Fashion Design and  
Merchandising in the College of  
Creative Arts and Media (Arts and  
Humanities)

**Kathleen Morrison**, assistant  
professor of Behavioral  
Neuroscience Psychology in the  
Eberly College of Arts and  
Sciences (Behavioral and Social  
Sciences)



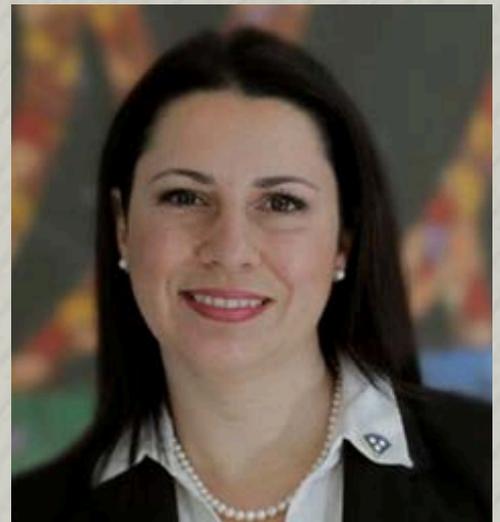
**Jennifer Gallagher**, associate  
professor of Biology in the Eberly  
College (Biosciences and Health  
Sciences)

# 2025 Award Winners Continued



**Jean McCrory**, assistant professor of Exercise Physiology in the School of Medicine (Biosciences and Health Sciences)

**Tatiana Trejos**, associate professor in the Department of Forensic and Investigative Science in the Eberly College (Physical Sciences and Technology)



**Christopher Anderson**, a doctoral student in Environmental Engineering and a Ruby Scholars Graduate Fellow (Graduate Student Mentor)

# Your path to **Conferences and Travel Support**

**UGR is dedicated to helping students showcase their work and gain real-world experience. This mission is achieved by promoting opportunities, providing financial support, and accompanying students to off-campus symposia and conferences.**





# NCUR

## National Conference on Undergraduate Research

# National Conference on Undergraduate Research

Each year, CUR hosts thousands of undergraduate researchers who travel to present their work. In 2025, 37 WVU students were selected from a national pool of applicants.



The Office of Undergraduate Research supported these students throughout the process by providing funding, coordinating travel, as well as accompanying and supporting students for the duration of the trip.

# ADVOCACY



# Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol (URDC)

This year, UGR supported 30 WVU students who were selected to travel to Charleston to present their research to policy makers, delegates, community members and more.



In addition to giving students valuable presentation and networking skills, this event serves to demonstrate the importance of research and showcase the advancements WVU researchers are constantly pursuing.

# Mountaineers on the Hill (MOH)

Undergraduate researchers traveled to Washington, DC, to advocate for federal funding for WVU research with West Virginia representatives in the US Congress



(From left to right):

**Christopher Smith-** SURE  
participant

**Ella Moats-** RAP and SURE  
participant

**Grady King-** RAP and SURE  
participant



# Scholarships and Awards

UGR programming positions participants for success in securing prestigious scholarships and awards.



# Order of Augusta

This program was established in 1995 to honor West Virginia University's most distinguished graduating seniors



Suraya Boggs – **SURE** participant  
Laasya Chennu – **RAP** and **SURE** participant



Luke Hawranick – **RAP** and **SURE** participant  
Charlie Long – **RAP** participant  
Isaac McCarthy – **RAP** participant



Christopher Smith - **SURE** participant  
Gabrielle Frazier – **SURE** participant

## National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program

This program helps ensure the quality, and strength of the scientific and engineering workforce of the US. Fellows are provided professional development opportunities, as well as a three-year annual stipend of \$37,000.



Christopher Smith - **SURE** participant

Camila Romero - **RAP** participant

# Goldwater Scholars

The Goldwater scholarship provides scholarships to second and third year college students who intend to pursue research careers in **STEM**.



Corinne Hazel: **RAP** participant, Grady King: **RAP** and **SURE** participant, Henry Coyle: **SURE** participant

## Mountaineers of Distinction

This awarded title recognizes exemplary academic achievement and extracurricular involvement.



Abby Ruth - **RAP** participant

# Hazel Ruby McQuain Scholars

This scholarship offers up to two years of financial support for master's degree recipients and three years of financial support for doctoral degree recipients.



Zachary Ellis - **RAP** participant



Leah Rogers - **RAP** participant

## Gilman Scholarship

This merit based scholarship supports students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad, providing them with skills critical to our national security and economic prosperity.



Chloe Thomas - **RAP** participant



Holly Rogers - **RAP** participant



# Undergraduate Researchers Making Waves

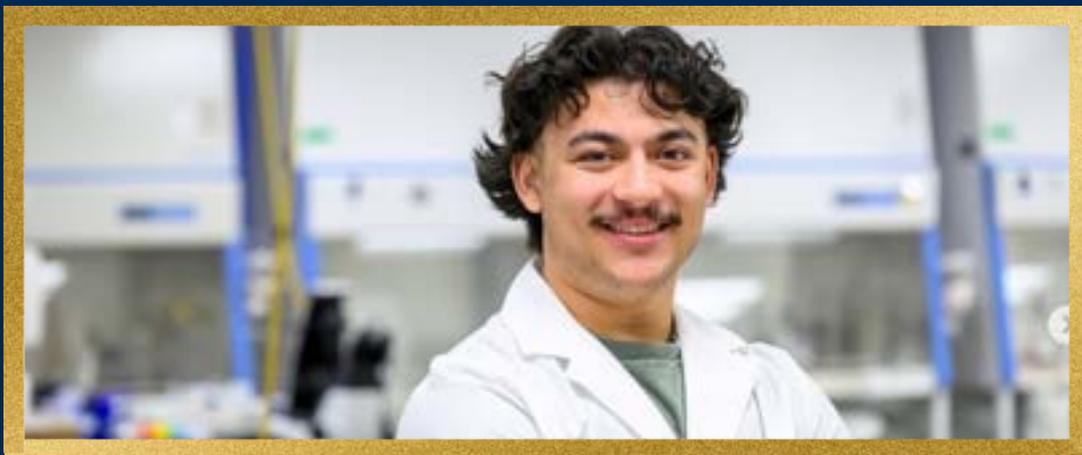
# Corinne Hazel



Corinne, who began her research in RAP, discovered a previously unknown fungus on morning-glory seeds that produces compounds related to LSD, opening new avenues for pharmaceutical research.



# Kyle Carpe



Through the SURE program, Kyle is making waves with breast cancer research that investigates the efficacy of the time in which a treatment is administered to patients.

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# Financial Support

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## **WVU Honors College**

The Honors College at WVU seeks to engage all undergraduate students in any college or discipline at WVU in research experiences through their generous support of the Office of Undergraduate Research.

## **WVU Research Office**

The WVU Research Office remains committed to supporting the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capital, the Mountaineers on the Hill (MOH) and the SURE program.

## **West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission: Science and Research.**

WVHEPC Science & Research supports WVU SURE Program, which in 2025 enabled 65 students to participate in the SURE program.

## **WVU Provost's Office**

The WVU Provost's Office remains committed to supporting the Office of Undergraduate Research and the SURE program.

## **First2 Network**

Initiative funded by NSF that aims to increase the persistence of STEM students in their majors, particularly first-generation WV students. In 2025 eligible undergraduates were supported to do research through UGR.

## **Federal Work Study**

Federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while students are enrolled in school to help pay their education expenses. The program encourages work related to the students' course of study, including research. Students who qualify for FWS receive \$15/hour for their research in the RAP program.

## **NASA Space Grant Consortium**

The Consortium is dedicated to building research infrastructure and promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education in West Virginia. In 2025 NASA Space Grant Consortium supported an undergraduate in SURE program

# Meet the Team

## Administration:



**Director:**  
Dr. Cinthia Pacheco



**RAP Coordinator:**  
Shan Cawley

## Student Workers:



**Social Media Marketing  
Manager:**  
Sophia DeLeon



**Student Worker:**  
Taylor Phillips

# Graduate Teaching Assistants:



Emily Heller



Gilbert Ansah



Ella Miller



Keyzar Dominguez



Hannah Miller

# **Undergraduate Teaching Assistants:**



**Cooper Coursey**



**Bernardo Pereira**



**Leonardo (Leo) Peele**



**Zienalabdin (Zain)  
Alkatrib**

# Undergraduate Research Ambassadors:



**Audrey Anderson**



**Bernardo Pereira**



**Caden Ginter**



**Cooper Coursey**



**Dena Lin**



**Cloe Ratcliff**



**Beshika Katwal**



**Leonardo (Leo) Peele**

This report was  
designed by...

**Sophia DeLeon**



Sophia is a senior at WVU, set to graduate in spring 2026. She is majoring in Neuroscience with a minor in Marketing. As a freshman Sophia joined the RAP program, and continues to participate in undergraduate research as senior.