

# Building on Excellence Strategic Plan 2013-14 Undergraduate Research Work Group

Impact Statement – June 5, 2014

**Charge and Background:** the charge we received was to find ways to “expand opportunities for undergraduate scholarship through innovative courses, experiences, and engagement.”

The working group approached this charge with three questions:

1. how do we build on structures and mechanisms currently in place, such as the SRS, and current undergraduate research opportunities?
2. how do we provide more strategic research opportunities for students across the curriculum?
3. how do we define research to include scholarship and creative activity for students in all fields as a way of furthering San Diego State University’s commitment to student engagement and academic achievement?

Based on these questions, the Undergraduate Research Working Group proposes three pilot initiatives:

1. Expand the faculty mini grants initiative currently in place as part of the DUS Undergraduate Research Program. Faculty in this program mentor one or two undergraduates to participate in their research activities and support them to achieve the program’s student learning outcomes. This pilot initiative will lead to an additional 20-30 students being involved in formal undergraduate research opportunities in 2014- 2015.
2. Pilot a student mini-grant initiative to establish campus practice in supporting student initiated undergraduate scholarship involving 45 – 60 undergraduate students. Students will be invited to submit research proposals connected to three existing programs to ensure faculty engagement and interactions with student grantees. These include the Common Experience (Food and Social Justice for 2014-2015), the SAGE Program partnership with National City, and the Lavin Entrepreneur Center. Student awardees will be required to participate in workshops in research methods and ethics as a condition of award. A doctoral/graduate student will serve as a general resource to students throughout the academic year as they work on their projects.
3. provide a faculty investigator with a one-course release for 2014-15 academic year to support the Undergraduate Research Work Group. The faculty investigator will lead work in adopting a new campus method to track student participation and outcomes in undergraduate scholarship for the campus. A key component is development of a student research, scholarship and creative activities participation continuum, which will serve as a critical step in helping the university identify and support undergraduate research opportunities across and through the levels of the curriculum.

SDSU Undergraduate Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity  
 Discipline Based Rubric for Undergraduate Students in A Pre-Training and Training Continuum

Pre-Training	Disciplines	Training			
Foundations/Skill Development/Coursework		INITIAL	EMERGING	DEVELOPED	HIGHLY DEVELOPED
	ARTS				
	PERFORMANCE				
	HUMANITIES				
	INTERDISCIPLINARY OR CROSS-DISCIPLINARY STUDIES				
	SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES				
	ENGINEERING/ APPLIED/ FINITE SCIENCES				
	NATURAL SCIENCES				

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