In his installation speech, President Timothy Sands stated his commitment to several inspirational goals, the first of which was that “…every Virginia Tech undergraduate will have the opportunity to participate in either an internship in a field related to their studies, or in a meaningful undergraduate research experience, or both. We have ample data to show that these opportunities open doors and raise ceilings. We owe it to our students to make these experiences available.” Timothy D. Sands, PhD, President, Installation Speech, October 17th, 2014.

The mission of the Office of Undergraduate Research is to foster an undergraduate research community that promotes, enhances, and expands undergraduate research opportunities for all students at Virginia Tech. Our vision is to provide undergraduate research opportunities for all students, in all fields of study, beginning their first year through a capstone experience.

Based on the May 2017 report entitled "Beyond Boundaries: Experiential Learning in Support of a VT-Shaped Education at Virginia Tech", six essential elements were identified as being critical to any experiential learning activity, including undergraduate research:

- a preparatory experience
- mentoring
- growth through authentic experiences
- a product that synthesizes, communicates, and shares the learning experience
- reflection on the experience (through a journal, blog, portfolio, etc)
- accessibility to broaden participation and diversity

The goals of the Undergraduate Research Faculty Grant Program are to:

1. Increase student access to genuine undergraduate research opportunities, and
2. To widen the breadth of opportunities and participation across majors.

This grant program will provide funding between $10,000 and $15,000 to individual faculty, teams of faculty, or departments, to facilitate the development of novel programs that aim to scale undergraduate research, through projects such as, but not limited to, course embedded undergraduate research experiences, scaffolded mentoring to facilitate large-scale research projects, and development of a comprehensive summer undergraduate research program. Proposals are now being accepted until December 3 at 5pm, with awards being announced by January 10, to fund projects through June 30, 2019. Apply here: https://goo.gl/forms/j2AogQEKxdwEjkui2

Please email Keri Swaby at kswaby@vt.edu with any questions.