Hello, Friends of OUR! We recently launched the F.I.R.E. Starters Program, which is a new summer undergraduate research program with a theme of Environment and Society that aims to increase access to and training for research opportunities for underrepresented minority students. In addition, the prestigious Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference is right around the corner. Please encourage your students to participate along with other summer research and scholarship programs. We provide summer support for faculty as well. You can find more information about these programs below in the newsletter.

We’d also like to highlight the Research Integrity and Scholarly Excellence (RISE) Lecture Series that you and your student researchers may find value-adding. This newsletter ends with NSF’s partnership news and an invite to join the D2D program, a faculty research coordination network, from the University of California, Davis. (5 minutes read)

**In today’s edition:**

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1. F.I.R.E. Starters Program

The mission of the F.I.R.E. Starters program is to forge interest, knowledge, and skill development in transdisciplinary research and engagement among underrepresented and underserved undergraduate students in the social sciences, humanities, and life sciences at Virginia Tech. The theme for the inaugural year of the F.I.R.E. Starters program is Environment and Society. Students in all disciplines – especially in the humanities and social sciences – are encouraged to think broadly about how their interests intersect with this theme and how they could advance a research project that builds on their interests. Click here to learn more about the program. The deadline is April 1, 2022.

2. Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship Conference

The annual Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship conference will take place in person throughout the day on Friday, April 29 in the Commonwealth Ballroom in Squires Student Center. Designed to be an accessible and open opportunity for students to present and share their work with peers and
the VT Community at large, we are hoping that you can help us by encouraging your students to apply and/or attend this amazing event. More information about the conference, including a student registration link, is available on the symposium webpage.

If your students have suitable artifacts from your class, we would welcome their presentations as a group or individually. We are happy to discuss the possibilities. Please contact Keri Swaby, Director for the Office of Undergraduate Research, via email at kswaby@vt.edu with questions.

3. Summer Research Scholarships for Students

The Office of Undergraduate Research is excited to announce the availability of four (4) research scholarships for this summer! Applications will be accepted between April 1 and 30, 2022 for the Dennis Dean Undergraduate Research Scholarship, which recognizes students who engage in research in ANY field. This year, we will be awarding four (4) scholarships of $2,500 each to support students conducting research at Virginia Tech this summer. Please help us to spread the word and invite your students to apply.
Eligibility: Continuing Virginia Tech undergraduate student in good academic standing from any major who is participating in mentored undergraduate research by a faculty member at Virginia Tech. *Important note: students will need to complete the General Application, a brief application housed in USFA before they will be able to complete this supplemental apply-to scholarship application. Apply at Scholarship Central.

Students are also invited to apply to the Jacklyn W. and William R. Jones, Jr. Experiential Learning Scholarship. One scholarship of $1,000 will be awarded for Summer 2022. Applications will be accepted between April 1 and 30, 2022. More information about these scholarships and other funding opportunities is available on the Office of Undergraduate Research website.

4. Summer Research Support for Faculty/Staff

Did you know that the Office of Undergraduate Research offers free programming to complement undergraduate research activities during the summer? Programming includes weekly professional development seminars, field trips, lab tours, communication practice sessions, networking and social opportunities with
other summer researchers from VT and across the country, as well as an end-of-summer symposium. All undergraduate researchers are welcome from all disciplines. Please point your summer researchers in our direction. More information is available on our [summer webpage](#). The Office of Undergraduate Research also provides support to faculty who are running funded summer research programs. More information is available on our [summer faculty support webpage](#).

5. The Investigator Series in Research Integrity & Scholarly Excellence

The Investigator Series provides researchers with a peer-to-peer forum to share ethical considerations that they make during the design, conduct, and dissemination of their research. This style of learning opens the door to new perspectives and meaningful conversations in the pursuit of research excellence. Investigator Series webinars are typically 1-hour and are open to all Virginia Tech students, faculty, and staff. All Investigator Series presentations provide in-person Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training credit hours towards the National Institutes of Health (NIH) 8-hour in-person [RCR training requirement](#). Previous Investigator Series presentations can be found on the Division of Scholarly Integrity and Research Compliance’s [video channel](#). NOTE: Viewing previously recorded
Investigator Series presentations does not provide credit hours towards the NIH's in-person RCR training requirement.

6. NSF's Partnership in Supporting Semiconductor Research Experiences for Undergraduates

The NSF announced a partnership to support hands-on research opportunities for undergraduate students in technical areas related to semiconductors. Click here to learn more about the partnership.

7. Design-2-Data (D2D) Program

D2D is a nationally coordinated Course-based Undergraduate Research Experience. It is made possible by you: a faculty network. The program at the University of California, Davis was recently awarded funding to expand and more deeply support. The program is calling for applicants for the 2022 faculty cohort! Member benefits and commitments follow. Click here for more details on D2D professional development.
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