Hi!

Here's what's in this week's Office of Undergraduate Research newsletter:

1. Biological Sciences undergraduate research grants- only for biological science majors
2. ICAT student research grants- deadline today!
3. Undergraduate Research Excellence Program (UREP)

1. **Biological Sciences undergraduate research grants- Only for BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES MAJORS**

If you are participating in undergraduate research during this academic year, please consider applying for one of the department’s undergraduate research awards. We will be awarding up to six $500 grants to help support undergraduate research projects conducted by our majors. These awards include the Robert Jones Undergraduate Research Excellence Award, two Alumni Research Awards, and up to three Stacey Smith Biology Research Excellence Awards.

To be eligible for any of the awards, a student must be an undergraduate enrolled as a major in the Department of Biological Sciences and have a minimum in-major QCA of 3.0. Students of any academic level except seniors graduating in Fall of 2018 may apply. The applicant’s research advisor may be a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences or another academic unit at Virginia Tech. These awards may be used for laboratory supplies and services. With the exception of the Stacey Smith Biology Research Awards, these grants may also be used to cover travel to scientific conferences related to the proposed research project.

Eligibility for the Stacey Smith Biology Research Excellence Awards has the following additional requirements: i.) Students should be interested in pursuing a research career—as opposed to a clinical healthcare career. ii.) Students eligible for this award must be from a group underrepresented in scientific research based on criteria such as—but not limited to—gender or ethnicity. iii.) This award is to be used only for laboratory supplies, not for tuition, books, or travel.

All applications will be reviewed together and ranked for merit. Awards will be assigned based on eligibility criteria and distributed to those with the highest scores. Please see the attached word document (URAwardsAnnouncement2018-19.docx) for details about eligibility and application instructions. The other attached file (URForm-2018-19.docx) must be completed and included as part of the application.

Questions regarding eligibility or expectations for awardees may be sent to tad@vt.edu.

2. **ICAT Grants- Deadline TODAY, Sept 14**

The Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology (ICAT) is accepting applications for fall semester student grants in support of projects that are creative, innovative, and show a strong potential for contribution toward the goals of ICAT and partnering units. Three grants of $1,000 each will be awarded to help students pursue a range of transdisciplinary activities including creative projects, pilot studies, feasibility studies, or preliminary research.
Current students are invited to submit an application and lead a project team. The project leaders must be enrolled at Virginia Tech in good standing as a graduate or undergraduate. Student project teams must be composed of at least three students from at least two different colleges. If two team members are from the same college, they must be from different departments within that college.

Applications must be submitted by Sept. 14, 2018. Find submission details online.

3. **Undergraduate Research Excellence program (UREP)**

Launched in Spring 2018, UREP is a novel way for any undergraduate student in any major to connect with undergraduate research resources and support and receive much deserved recognition for engagement in undergraduate research.

UREP will allow you to:

- Track your undergraduate research journey.
- Validate your experience through recognition of your research efforts and achievements.
- Showcase your experience for potential employers and professional/graduate schools.

Additional benefits to participating:

- Access to advising and mentoring from the Office of Undergraduate Research.
- Guidance from University Libraries in developing research skills.
- Support from University Libraries to create an ePortfolio to track your research journey.
- **Earn a graduation cord** reserved exclusively for students who complete UREP.

Learn more and sign up to join the program: [https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/urep.html](https://www.research.undergraduate.vt.edu/urep.html)