



SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) 2017

The SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference (SURC) is a multidisciplinary spring semester event hosted each year by a different SUNY institution. The third annual SURC will be hosted at two SUNY locations: SURC East will be at Suffolk County Community College in Brentwood, and SURC West will be at The State University of New York at Fredonia. SURC brings together undergraduate student researchers and faculty mentors from across the SUNY system for a full day of activities, including sessions devoted to student presentations (oral, performance, artistic displays, and poster), luncheon with keynote speaker(s), a SUNY Graduate School and Career Fair, and professional development workshops for students and for faculty. SURC is supported by the Offices of the Chancellor, Provost, and Research Foundation, as well as SUNY student and faculty governance organizations. All undergraduate students engaged in research/creative activity and their mentors across SUNY and CUNY are invited to attend.

Why SURC?

Original research and creative activity are widely recognized as high-impact educational experiences that positively affect undergraduate students' completion rates, career prospects and readiness for graduate study.

Most SUNY campuses encourage such research and creative activity throughout the curriculum, in capstone experiences and/or via intensive summer placements. In addition, they invest in opportunities for students to present their work, thereby engaging critical audiences in their learning processes and honing the professional communication skills necessary for higher-order scholarship and career success. Frequently those institutions do so by hosting their own student scholarship symposiums and by sending their students to professional conferences and events such as the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR).

Institutions' internal symposiums engender school spirit and commitment to academic excellence, while also providing students with first-time presentation opportunities before familiar audiences. Participation in conferences allows students to develop further confidence and academic skills and to network beyond their campus by presenting their work to students and faculty who specialize in their research fields. This opportunity often comes at the steep price of sending students to distant host institutions.

SURC will provide similar networking and academic enrichment opportunities for students throughout the SUNY system at lower costs and more convenient locales. Wide participation in the part-day display of SUNY/CUNY student research at the Legislative Office Building in Albany, hosted each year by the University Faculty Senate (UFS), is a model that indicates an unmet demand across the SUNY system for a larger SURC.

By bringing together many hundreds of students and faculty from across the state, SURC will help realize the synergistic power of the SUNY system. Students will benefit from networking and academic enrichment opportunities and learn about graduate programs available across SUNY at a Graduate



School Fair. Faculty will benefit from networking workshops on integrating student research into their pedagogy or building research and grant collaborations. Additionally, the Research Foundation may use SURC to host a faculty workshop on its Networks of Excellence. Finally, SUNY and Research Foundation are encouraged to convene administrative meetings coinciding with the event, thereby giving leadership a convenient opportunity to witness academic excellence across the SUNY system.

Logistics

The volunteer host institutions will work with the SUNY Provost's Office and UFS to identify a liaison at each SUNY and CUNY university, comprehensive college and community college by the beginning of the academic year. These liaisons will distribute an initial electronic invitation from the SUNY Chancellor and subsequent promotions and information from the SURC host to their faculty colleagues during the fall semester. Liaisons may collect and help vet student presentation proposals before submitting them electronically late in the fall semester to the host institution. If accepted by faculty reviewers, those presentations will be scheduled into conference proceedings and thus be available for inclusion in students' e-portfolios.

There will be a modest conference registration fee for attending students and faculty. Depending on sponsorships and/or host institution investment in administrative costs (marketing, communication, proceedings booklet printing, etc.), this fee will contribute to overhead and largely cover the costs of conference luncheon and refreshments. The SURC Steering Committee hopes that each SUNY institutions will cover the costs of registration and travel for a cohort of its undergraduate students and attending faculty.

Suffolk County Community College, SUNY will host SURC East at its Michael J. Grant Campus in Brentwood, Long Island on Friday, April 21, 2017 and The State University of New York at Fredonia will host SURC West on Saturday April 22, 2017 at Fredonia. Each SURC is tentatively scheduled from 9:30 am- 5:30 pm so that attendees from all SUNY/CUNY campuses may choose the one host institution that is most conveniently located within 4 hours by car and can do the roundtrip in one day.