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e-Newsletter

Division Officers:

Doreen Sams, Chair
Doreen.sams@gcsu.edu
James LaPlant, Vice Chair
jlaplant@valdosta.edu
Anne Price, Secretary
annprice@valdosta.edu

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“SPUR serves as the leading international, cross-disciplinary, scholarly destination for those committed to practical, inclusive, and diverse experiences in mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry.”

CUR 2023-2024 Nominations and Elections

Nominations for CUR elected positions opened on October 16, 2023 and the deadline for nominations has been extended to January 19, 2024. The division put in a great effort to recruit new members. The division received one nomination for CUR councilor for one opening, and nine nominations for division representatives, for sixteen openings. The nomination window (including self-nominations) has been extended through January 19th. Please continue to recruit your colleagues that are involved in undergraduate research and experiential learning for our division. Responsibilities for each position and the self-nomination portals can be found here: [link](#)

Reviewers for NCUR 2024

Division Representatives are currently reviewing abstracts for NCUR. Please let Doreen Sams know how many abstracts you have already reviewed for NCUR.

SPUR Proposal

A group of Social Science Division members (Edwards, Lagotte, Price, Rickard, Sams, Sobo, and Strong) submitted a proposal to SPUR’s Special Edition, “Career Readiness Through Undergraduate Research: An Interdisciplinary Social Science Perspective” and are currently waiting to hear an acceptance decision.

Interview with Dr. Jennifer Edwards, Social Science Division Representative



This month spotlights Jennifer Edwards, CUR Social Sciences Division Representative. Dr. Edwards currently serves as Professor of Communication at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. Previously she has served as Assistant Provost for Faculty Diversity and Assistant Vice-President for Student Success and Multicultural Initiative. Most of the courses Dr. Edwards teaches are graduate level and they focus on emerging technologies (social media and artificial intelligence).

What CUR committees or task forces are you currently serving on?

I am a contributing member of the SPUR collaborative proposal and am working on a few other projects focused on undergraduate research. I also serve as the Social Media manager for the Social Science Division.

How long have you been mentoring undergraduate research?

I have been mentoring undergraduate research for the past 15 years. It has been amazing to see more former undergraduate students become faculty members.

“Our diverse group of leaders brings a wide variety of experience and knowledge to CUR. These dedicated and dynamic individuals embrace the mission and vision of the organization and help to further undergraduate research.”

I also continue to involve undergraduate students in experimental learning activities. Currently, we are providing health outreach in rural communities. The students are learning about themselves and their community. I learned a lot about myself as well. Through experiential learning activities like undergraduate research, study abroad, and internships, students and faculty learn about the world around them and how they can make it better.

What influenced you to join CUR?

I joined CUR after attending my first social sciences workshop with a few of my colleagues from Tarleton State University. After completing the cumulating assignment and speaking with Dr. Julio Rivera and Dr. James T. LaPlant, I realized that CUR was where I needed to be. Through CUR, I learned how to become an administrator, to network with others, and to serve as a mentor for underrepresented students. I owe my much of my success in higher education to CUR.

Upcoming Opportunities & Deadlines

The Social Sciences Faculty Excellence Award in Mentoring of Undergraduate Research is open for nominations and the deadline is March 1, 2024. [Link](#)

A new award was created for the division, the “Inspiring Creation Award.” The rubric will soon be developed.

Contact Information



Anne Price, CUR Social Science Division Secretary

annprice@valdosta.edu

<https://www.cur.org/who/governance/divisions/socsci/>

