



2024

YEAR IN

REVIEW

We are CUR.



QUESTIONS WITH THE CUR President

How has membership engagement, including those from elected positions, built a successful year for CUR and set us on a promising path for the future?

Greater member involvement embodies the intrinsic human need for community in these complex and challenging times. Increasing Division activity in 2024 is testament to member confidence in the ongoing evolution of CUR as we fully implemented the new governance model. The lifeblood of a successful organization is strong and sustained member engagement! Sharing information and resources through CUR conversations, networking through divisional meetings and events, and offering more open and inclusive volunteer opportunities propels community building in serving the mission and vision of CUR. “

Maria Tacullo-Bird

Assistant Provost for Research
Pace University
CUR President (2024-2025)



2024 Highlights

- The new Council was elected in early 2024 and kicked off the work of their charge in the fall.
- ConnectUR, NCUR, and STR Programs had record registrations and engagement.
- [COEUR 2.0](#) was released with updates and new support documents.

A MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As we reflect on 2024, we celebrate the strides CUR has made in advancing the practice of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative inquiry (URSCI).

This year, the release of Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR) 2.0, updated 12 years after the original, marked a significant milestone by incorporating CUR's values and a focus on inclusion throughout all characteristics, while providing revised benchmarks for excellence and emphasizing the importance of continuous improvement in undergraduate research. The resource provides tools for mentors to elevate undergraduate research's transformative impact on students and institutions.

Participation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) and ConnectUR grew to new heights this year, underscoring the power of collective engagement. These gatherings provided spaces for students, faculty, and partners to exchange ideas, share successes, and strengthen the bonds within the undergraduate research community. Coming together as a community reminds us of the shared purpose and collective strength driving meaningful change.

Our Students Transforming through Research (STR) program saw unprecedented growth, engaging more participants and amplifying the importance of advocacy for undergraduate research—from federal policy to campus initiatives and local communities. STR participants continue to demonstrate how UR positively influences not only academic success but also societal and workforce readiness.

CUR strengthened its focus on linking URSCI to career readiness, empowering students with skills and experiences that prepare them for their future endeavors. Additionally, our growing partnerships with the higher education association community are expanding the reach and impact of URSCI, fostering collaborations that ensure students and faculty are well-supported in this transformative work.

We are inspired by our members' dedication and the transformative outcomes of undergraduate research. As we move forward, CUR remains committed to innovation, advocacy, and collaboration in support of this vital practice. Thank you for being part of our shared journey of success and impact. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the advancement of undergraduate research. I look forward to another year of collective achievements and meaningful impact.

Yours in service,
Lindsay
Lindsay Currie, CAE
CUR Executive Officer



FUN fact

10,286

THE AMOUNT OF EMAILS TO CUR@CUR.ORG THAT OUR CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE TEAM HANDLED IN 2024. FROM PAYMENT REQUESTS, EVENT QUESTIONS, MEMBERSHIP INFO + MORE!

We are leading.

BOARD OF Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	PRESIDENT	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	PRESIDENT-ELECT	TREASURER	EXECUTIVE OFFICER
	 MARIA IACULLO-BIRD Pace University	 BETHANY USHER Radford University	 JAMES LAPLANT Valdosta State University	 KAREN RESENDES Westminster College	 LINDSAY CURRIE Council on Undergraduate Research
 JOHN BARTHELL University of Central Oklahoma	 LANCE BARTON University of North Carolina at Charlotte	 BETH CUNNINGHAM American Association of Physics Teachers	 WINNY DONG California State Polytechnic University - Pomona	 LOURDES E. ECHEGOYEN University of Texas at El Paso	
 SEAN FOX Carleton College	 ERIC HALL Elon University	 KELLY MACK Association of American Colleges + Universities	 CHARLOTTE SIMMONS University of Central Oklahoma		



NATIONAL Office

 Pam Dodge Director, Finance + Operations	 Natalie Jones Sr. Manager, Customer + Volunteer Experience	 Jodi Wilson Coordinator, Customer Experience	 Heather Wakefield Sr. Director, Program Strategy, Development + Design	 Lindsay Currie Executive Officer	 Elizabeth Moris Director, Brand Engagement	 Meredith Rector Manager, Community Engagement	 Todd Waggoner Lead Manager, Content Engagement
--	---	---	--	--	--	--	---

ELECTED Leadership

13 # OF BOARD MEMBERS		8 # OF NLDC MEMBERS
	223 # OF DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES	
25 # OF COUNCIL MEMBERS		13 # OF DIVISIONS
	1200+ TOTAL # OF VOLUNTEERS IN 2024	269 TOTAL # OF ELECTED LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

COMMITTEES + Taskforces + WORKING GROUPS

- ADVOCACY + STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
- ANNUAL CONFERENCE KNOWLEDGE + COMMUNITY BUILDING ADVISORY GROUP
- ARTS + HUMANITIES FACULTY MENTOR AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE
- AURA AWARDS COMMITTEE
- CAREER READINESS IMPLEMENTATION WORK GROUP
- CONTENT DEVELOPMENT + STRATEGY ADVISORY GROUP
- CUR FELLOWS AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE
- CUR-GOLDWATER FACULTY MENTOR SELECTION COMMITTEE
- DIVERSITY, EQUITY + INCLUSION COMMITTEE
- FINANCE COMMITTEE
- FORESIGHT GUIDANCE + RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROTOTYPE WORKING GROUP
- NATIONAL + DIVISIONAL NOMINATIONS + LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES
- PROGRAM REVIEW TASK FORCE
- SILVIA RONCO SELECTION COMMITTEE
- STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS TASK FORCE
- SPUR EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

QUESTIONS WITH THE CUR President

In 2024, our governance modernization went into full effect. How has this impacted volunteer opportunities and the structure of CUR?

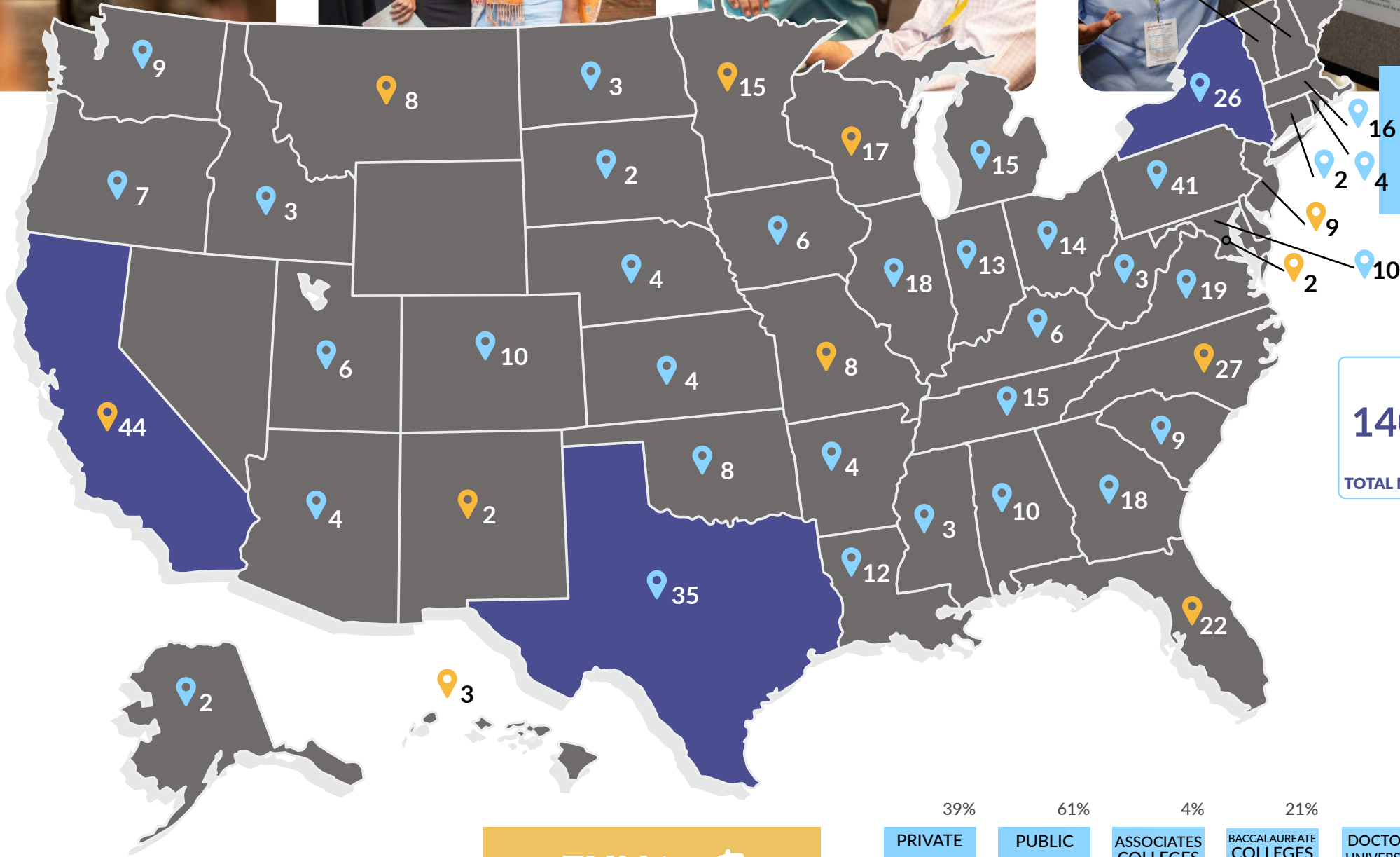
“A defining feature of our governance modernization is enhancing community and communication through new elected leadership structures. The year 2024 inaugurated the CUR Council to advise the Board of Directors on key issues, and to facilitate informed exchange between Divisions and the Board. In establishing a new level of CUR elected leadership, Council participation offers volunteer opportunities that figure significantly in the cultivation of the CUR-wide leadership pipeline. Constant leadership replenishment is essential for CUR’s sustainability and success as a member-based service organization!”

Maria Iacullo-Bird
Assistant Provost for Research
Pace University
CUR President (2024-2025)



LOOKING TO BECOME A THOUGHT LEADER? CHECK OUT [CUR.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://cur.org/volunteer)

131
OF MEMBERS SERVING ON COMMITTEES, TASKFORCES + WORKING GROUPS



We are community.

INDIVIDUALS engaged through membership



MEMBERSHIPS in other countries



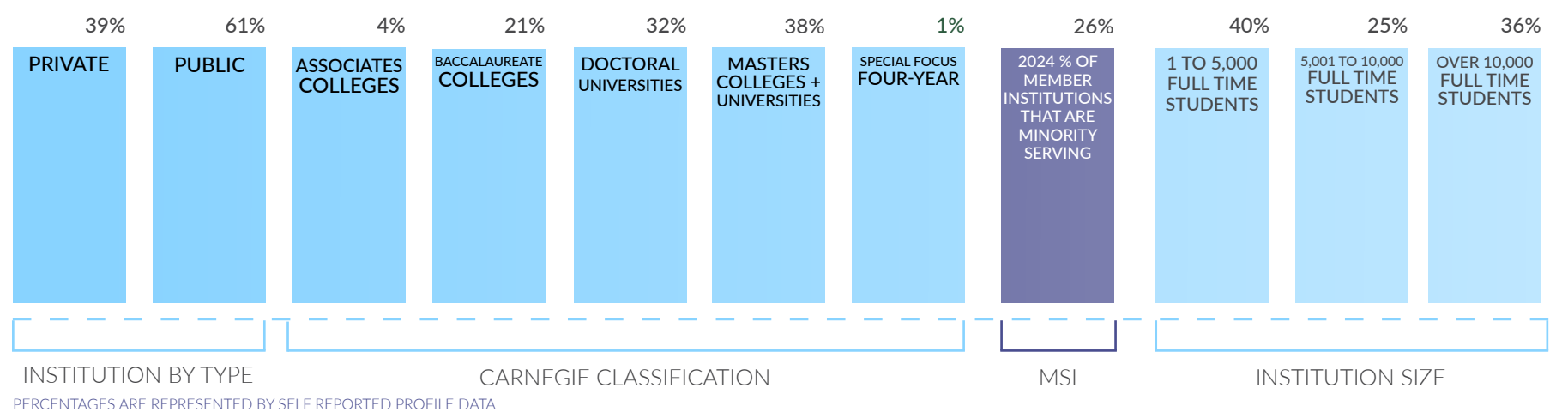
Our members are...

- MEMBERED INSTITUTIONS BY STATE (DATA IS AS OF DECEMBER 2024)
- INCREASED NUMBER OF MEMBERED INSTITUTIONS SINCE 2023
- LARGEST POPULATION OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS (DATA IS AS OF DECEMBER 2024)

FUN fact

838

THE NUMBER OF FIRST TIME COMMUNITY DISCUSSION POSTS IN 2024 IN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY FORUM. THAT IS MORE THAN 2 POSTS A DAY, EVERY DAY THIS YEAR. CHATTY MUCH?



We are developing.



JANUARY

- JAN 18 | INTERACTIVE EXPERT SEMINAR**
UREs as Effective Training for Career Readiness: A Conversation Among Practitioners
- JAN 26 | STR 2023-2024 ONLINE TRAINING**
Media Interviews and Building Relationships

"The CUR STR program was an excellent opportunity to learn the art of communication to a variety of audiences. The practical skills aided me in speaking with my legislators and the media. For my student, she was able to build her network and gain experience that will translate well to the workplace or graduate school."

- Participant from 2023-24 STR Program

FEBRUARY

- FEB 12 | STR 2023-2024 ONLINE TRAINING**
Op-ed Writing and Pitching
- FEB 13 - 16 | GRANT DIALOGUES**
- FEB 20 | CUR CONVERSATION**
Tips for Creating and Presenting Posters
- FEB 23 | STR 2023-2024 ONLINE TRAINING**
Podcast Recording + Office Hours with Facilitators



MARCH

- MAR 8, 15, 22 | LINKEDIN TRAINING SERIES**
How to Build a Professional Presence and Network
- MAR 12 | ONLINE EVENT**
Community Engagement Meeting: CUR's Annual Business Update
- MAR 15 | STR 2023-2024 ONLINE TRAINING**
Brief Writing Workshop
- MAR 19 | CUR CONVO**
Undergraduate Research + Press
- MAR 20 | SPUR ISSUE RELEASE**
SPUR Winter 2024 Issue
- MAR 25 | PSYCHOLOGY DIVISION WEBINAR**
Psychology Division Mid-Career Mentor Awardee Presentation: Mentorship in the Lab, in the Classroom, and Beyond

"Being at NCUR was an experience I'll never forget! It was an amazing opportunity to present my research, support my fellow students, and hear presentations from all across the country. The future of research is very promising!"
- Student Presenter from NCUR 2024

APRIL

- APR 8-10 | NCUR 2024**
At Long Beach, CA
- APR 15-19 | UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH WEEK**
- APR 17 | ONLINE EVENT**
An International Discussion on Undergraduate Research
- APR 23 | MCS DIVISION WEBINAR**
Students as Collaborators
- APR 25 | STR 2023-2024 SHOWCASE**
Voices of Impact: Stories from our participants, Expert insights + the path forward

EVENT highlights

15%

INCREASE OF REGISTRATIONS FOR BOTH CONNECTUR + NCUR FROM 2023

5825+

OVERALL PARTICIPANTS ACROSS ALL EVENTS

4380+

TOTAL SPEAKERS ACROSS ALL EVENTS

"I am only starting to work in the office of UR, so it was an amazing opportunity to learn from people who have been engaged in UR for some time."
- Participant from 2024 ConnectUR

JUNE

- JUNE 11 | CUR AWARD CELEBRATION**
- JUNE 12-13 | CUR ANNUAL LEADERSHIP MEETING**
- JUNE 20-21 | ONLINE CONNECTUR**
- JUNE 24 | WORKSHOPS**
Beyond Buzzwords: Upholding UR Practices Through Action, Not Words
Partnering to Build and Sustain URSCI at Your Institution
Leveraging Career-Readiness Language in your Research & Creative Inquiry Experiences
- JUNE 24-26 | ONSITE CONNECTUR**



JULY

- JUL 11-15 | INPERSON INTENSIVE**
Proposal Writing Institute

AUGUST

- AUG 6 | SPUR ISSUE RELEASED**
Spring 2024 Issue
- AUG 20 | COEUR 2.0 RELEASED**
Newly revised Characteristics of Excellence

SEPTEMBER

- SEPT 25 | ENGINEERING DIVISION WEBINAR**
Perspectives on Excellence in Undergraduate Research from Four Engineering Division Leadership and Mentorship Award Winners
- SEPT 25 | URP EXCHANGE**
Establishing an Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee/Board
- SEPT 30 | SPUR OFFICE HOURS**
Meet and ask questions to the Editor-in-Chief

OCTOBER

- OCT 8 | SPUR ISSUE RELEASED**
Summer 2024 Issue
- OCT 16 | URP EXCHANGE**
Policies and attitudes towards the Use of AI in UR Proposals
- OCT 17 | CUR CONVO**
How Can I Get More Involved with CUR? Taking that Next Step to be an Elected Leader
- OCT 18 | COMMUNITY HOUR**
An Online Gathering for CUR Members Hosted by the DEI Committee
- OCT 24 | P+A DIVISION WEBINAR**
Strategies for Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers in Physics & Astronomy

NOVEMBER

- NOV 18 | URP EXCHANGE**
Best Practices in Undergraduate Research Websites
- NOV 8 | SPUR ISSUE RELEASE**
SPUR Fall 2024 Issue
- NOV 15 | STR 2024-2025 ORIENTATION**
Getting Inspired, Setting Goals

DECEMBER

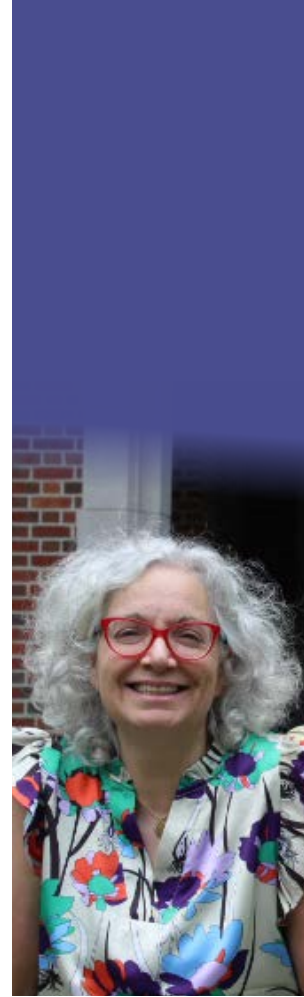
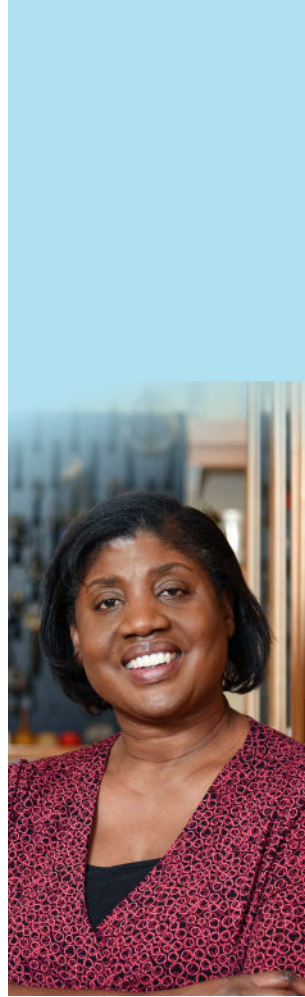
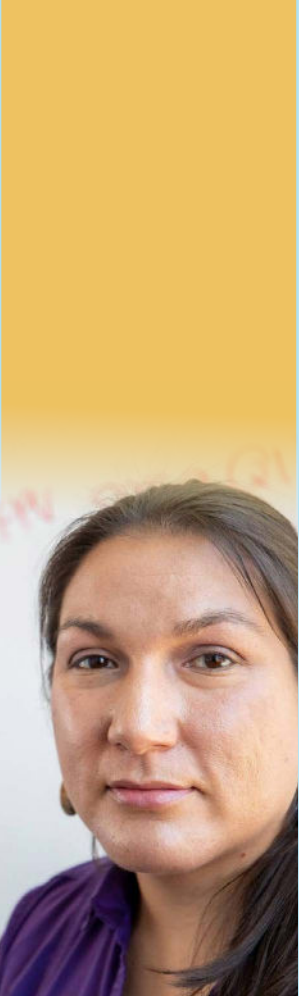
- DEC 1 | STR 2023-24 WORKSHOP**
Engaging with Government Agencies
- DEC 2 | A+H DIVISION WEBINAR**
Arts and Humanities Division Coffee Hour
- DEC 5 | ONLINE WEBINAR**
Author Insights: Why the Characteristics of Excellence in Undergraduate Research (COEUR) 2.0?
- DEC 6 | STR 2024-2025 ONLINE TRAINING**
Connecting and Building Relationships with Policymakers

WANT TO KEEP UP ON ALL THE HAPPENINGS WITHIN CUR? MAKE SURE TO VISIT OUR CALENDAR AT [CUR.ORG/EVENTS](https://cur.org/events)

FUN fact

CUR HOSTED AN IMPRESSIVE TOTAL OF 31 ONLINE EVENTS THIS YEAR, A SIGNIFICANT LEAP FROM THE 13 HELD IN 2023. TALK ABOUT LEVELING UP OUR VIRTUAL GAME—TURNS OUT, WE WEREN'T READING THE NUMBERS BACKWARDS AFTER ALL!





DR. NAOMI LEE
Northern Arizona University

DR. GENEIVE HENRY
Susquehanna University

DR. KARINA VÁZQUEZ
University of Richmond

DR. JOHN ANDERSON
College of the Atlantic



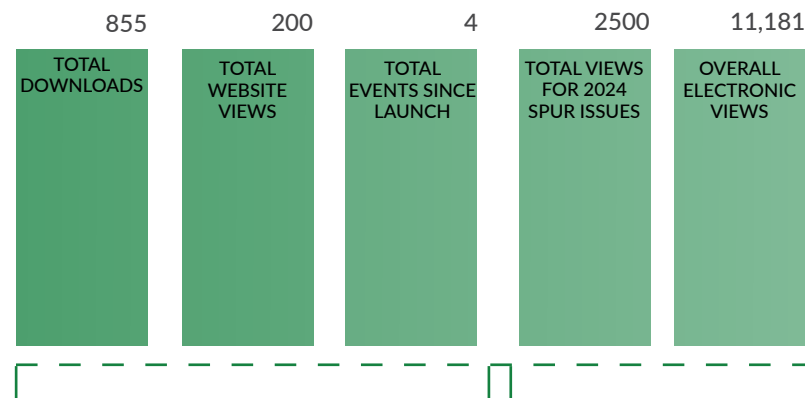
2023
CAMPUS
AURA RECIPIENTS

We are engaging.

COMMUNITY engagement



SPUR + COEUR 2.0 state



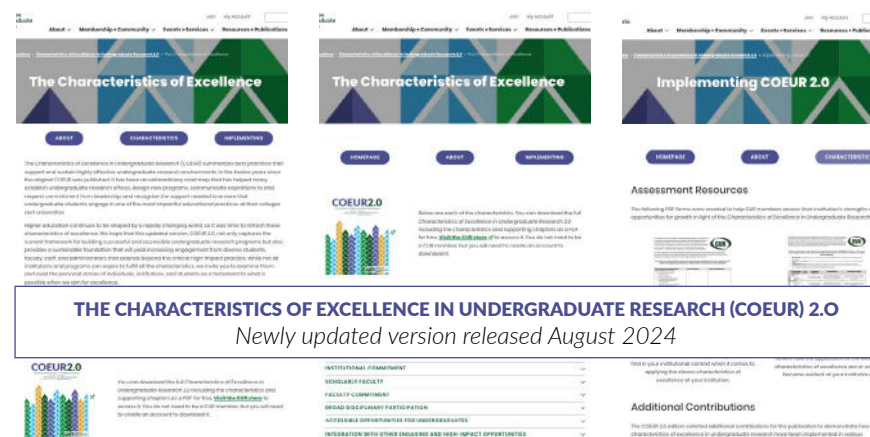
SOCIAL MEDIA state



COEUR 2.0

SCHOLARSHIP + PRACTICE OF
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH
JOURNAL

AN UPDATED WEBSITE PAGE with more to come



DIVISIONAL awards



SPUR Best Article Honoree

Volume 7.4 | *Claiming Space in the Academic Landscape: Negotiating Spatial Belonging in Undergraduate Research* by Heather Haeger, Natasha Oehlman, and Roman Christiaens

Honorable Mention:

Volume 7.1 | *Building Research Skills through an Undergraduate Research Project on Local Community* by Praopan Pratoomchat and Rubana Mahjabeen

Peer Review Awardees:

- Christopher Barney, *Hope College*
- Lance Barton, *University of North Carolina at Charlotte*
- Erin Dolan, *University of Texas at Austin*
- Michael Loui, *University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign*

FUN fact

URP DIVISION OPENED A NEW DIVISIONAL AWARD CALLED THE WEBSITE COMPETITION WHERE THREE INSTITUTIONS TOOK HOME THE AWARD FOR BEST UR WEBSITE.

FUN fact

WITH SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM NAME CHANGES, BUY-OUTS, AND TALKS OF BANS, CUR PUT MORE EFFORT + STRATEGY INTO LINKEDIN DOUBLING OUR FOLLOWERS FROM 2023. AND NOW, CUR IS LOOKING AT OPENING ANOTHER CHANNEL IN 2025...WHAT DO YOU THINK IT IS?



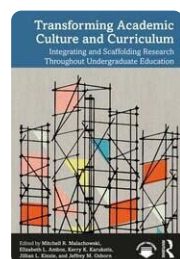
CONNECTUR 2024
ATTENDEES WITH FORAGER ONE
Event sponsor since 2020

ADVOCATING ON THE Hill

During 2024, two Scholars Transforming Through Research (STR) advocacy programs occurred. The class of 2023-2024 hosted a virtual event called, "Voices of Impact: Stories from our STR Participants, Expert Insights, and the Path Forward," inviting local and federal representatives from their area to participate, listen, and interact with STR participants while they celebrated the final piece of their advocacy program. In the fall of 2024, the new 2024-2025 class kicked off their program in November and will be going through online advocacy training until their Hill meetings with the new administration in March of 2025.

Classes of	41	90	35	19
2023-24	TOTAL TEAMS	TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS	TOTAL INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED	TOTAL STATES REPRESENTED
2024-25	63	146	57	22
	TOTAL TEAMS	TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCHERS	TOTAL INSTITUTIONS REPRESENTED	TOTAL STATES REPRESENTED

TRANSFORMING through grants



A product of the Transformations project, a six-year, longitudinal research study funded by the National Science Foundation, *Transforming Academic Culture and Curriculum* was released in February 2024. It features the goals, strategies, and outcomes that evolved from the experiences at 12 diverse colleges and universities in creating innovative undergraduate curricula and campus cultures that maximize student success.

The editors included scholarly findings, step-by-step guides, and a toolkit section to help readers develop and execute personalized change processes on their own campuses.

QUESTIONS WITH THE CUR President

Why do we need individuals to amplify our support of undergraduate research? How has CUR provided resources to do this and why is it important?



Advocacy efforts inspired the founding of CUR and remain a strategic priority in advancing undergraduate research. In 2024, resourcesm programs, events and activities demonstrate advocacy matters! CUR's "This Week in Washington Newsletter" keeps membership informed about legislative developments on Capitol Hill. The Scholars Transforming through Research (STR) program focuses on federal advocacy, and Grant Dialogues illustrates how applying for grants is advocacy for government funding across agencies and endowments. Advocacy through undergraduate research visibility and knowledge sharing is on display at both NCUR, by student presentations, and with ConnectUR's innovative practices and strategies for faculty, staff, and administrators. CUR also has an Advocacy Committee in which members address federal, state, local, and institutional advocacy while Division representatives cultivate relationships with disciplinary associations. Working together across these and related initiatives amplifies our individual and collective CUR voices on behalf of undergraduate research.

María Iacullo-Bird
Assistant Provost for Research
Pace University
CUR President (2024-2025)



"Participating in the CUR-STR program allowed both students and faculty see their scholarship connect outside the classroom and lab. We need to teach advocacy to all our undergraduate researchers so they can see the impact of their work on decision makers."
-STR Participant 2023-2024

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NCUR HISTORY, NCUR TOOK PLACE AT A CONVENTION CENTER, WHICH ALLOWS THE PROGRAM TO CONTINUE TO EXPAND AND CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CAMPUS PARTNERS TO ENGAGE IN A FOCUSED WAY BENEFITTING ATTENDEES.

FUN fact

CUR ACHIEVED AN INCREDIBLE MILESTONE WITH NCUR 2024 FUTURE FAIR, SELLING OUT TWO MONTHS BEFORE THE DEADLINE! AS OUR FIRST TIME RUNNING AN IN-PERSON EXHIBIT HALL, THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT WAS NO SMALL FEAT—AND THE SELLOUT WAS THE CHERRY ON TOP!



@ NCUR 2024
Virginia Tech
Future Fair Exhibitor



@ NCUR 2024
NIH Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program
Future Fair Exhibitor



@ NCUR 2024
SENS Research Foundation
Future Fair Exhibitor + Event Sponsor

We are advocating.



CUR@CUR.org | [CUR.org/YIR](https://www.CUR.org/YIR) | [#CURinAction](https://twitter.com/CURinAction)

