



COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

2024-2025 Elections Education Division: Councilor Candidates

Position Purpose: The CUR Council is a multidisciplinary body providing advisory input to the Board, so they have a broader perspective when making resource investment decisions. The Council serves in a communication capacity, surfacing key items arising from the Divisions, bridging the insight of the Division to the work of CUR as a whole, and serving as one means of information and resource dissemination from the central organization to the Divisions and members.

Needed Qualifications:

- Communication: Professional and effective communicators, experienced in difficult conversations and able to hear and disseminate community needs
- Foresight: Individuals able to look to the best interests of CUR into the future when discussing various issues impacting CUR members and higher education
- Creativity: Thoughtful supporters of change, able to think outside the box to find new initiatives
- Collaborative Spirit: Team players making space for all voices to be heard, furthering the collective understanding of the group, and cultivating outcomes to best serve CUR and its membership

There is 1 individual running.

You may vote for the candidate presented to be elected as a councilor for this division.

Candidate information is presented on the following pages. Click on each candidate name below to be taken to their Information In the document.

- [Tina Zecher](#)

Tina Zecher, Northern Arizona University

Education Division Nominee

NOMINEE STATEMENTS

Describe your leadership experience both within CUR and extramural.

I am currently serving in my sixth year as an elected leader within CUR. I first served as a division representative for the undergraduate research program division. With a change in roles at my university I moved into the Education Division in 2020, and I have served as a divisional representative, vice-chair, and councilor. I have been a member of the Nominations and Elections Committee as well as the Program Review Committee and I am currently on the subcommittee to streamline the Divisional Awards process.

Beyond CUR, I serve as a leader and advocate for undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity on my campus. I have received internal grants to conduct research on research, to better understand the barriers of entry into research experiences for education students. I have worked collaboratively with faculty across disciplines to disseminate on the outcomes of co-curricular and post-baccalaureate programming that aims to provide culturally sustaining research opportunities to students in STEM. In 2024, I worked with our Yuma campus to launch their local symposium and have led the efforts to expand the research offerings at NAU through course-based undergraduate research experiences. I have served as a reviewer for NCUR for multiple years.

How will your skills help the Council successfully uphold its charge?

As many in CUR, I am passionate about providing a supportive community of scholars to advance equitable access to research, scholarly, and creative activities at all higher education institutions. I feel my experience as a PhD student in education studying undergraduate research, the director of a centralized office of undergraduate research, and a long-standing member of CUR who has worked across divisions provide me a perspective on where we have been and the possibilities of where we might go. I am an active member of our division and feel I can adequately represent the needs, concerns, and direction of our group to both advise the Board on our needs as well as inform our division on the priorities of CUR and how our work may align.

NOMINEE ABBREVIATED CV

An abbreviated CV highlighting the candidate's accomplishments with respect to undergraduate research is available on the next page.

Tina Zecher



602.725.5188



[linkedin.com/in/tina-zecher](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tina-zecher)



Christina.zecher@nau.edu

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Highly motivated Service Professional with 11+ years of experience in K-20 education. Increased student participation in research programs by 50% and secured over \$500k in grant and donor funds to expand current offerings. Formed collaborative connections with faculty and administration across NAU's colleges and Student Success programs to develop co-curricular offerings and promote research opportunities.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITY | NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY | FLAGSTAFF, AZ

DIRECTOR, MAY 2023-PRESENT

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, JULY 2019 – APRIL 2020, JUNE 2022-MAY 2023

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, SR., JULY 2017 – JULY 2019

- Advance the mission of expanding undergraduate research at NAU through the promotion of 17+ programs to students across disciplines and collaboration with faculty and administration in all colleges
- Oversee and manage budgetary and planning aspects of multiple student- and faculty-serving programs, including the Hooper Undergraduate Research Award, Interns-to-Scholars, Course-based Undergraduate Research Development Grants, and the Undergraduate Symposium
- Engage in long-term strategic planning for the department, including expansion of existing programs and the development of new initiatives
- Create funding proposals and collaborate with NAU Foundation to secure donors, raising over \$500k
- Administer formative and summative mixed methods assessments to all participants in department to determine areas for program improvements and report outcomes to university administrators
- Supervise professional staff and students and served as an advisor to the Student Undergraduate Research Club

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EVALUATION ASSOCIATE, APRIL 2020 – JUNE 2022

- Collaborated with STEM faculty to design, submit and implement the evaluation and educational research components of externally funded STEM Education grants
- Wrote, reported, and disseminated evaluation findings to a variety of audiences at local, state and national levels, including but not limited to project stakeholders, funding agencies and evaluation professionals
- Coordinated and submitted IRB applications for the protection of human subjects as appropriate
- Co-coordinated the STEM Interaction and Communication Hub, a collaboration of students and researchers launched in Spring 2022 to address broader impacts through the communication of scientific research progress

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY | TEMPE, AZ

PROGRAM COORDINATOR, ASU KERN GRANT, AUGUST 2016 – JULY 2017

- Developed, promoted and executed deliverables of the grant, including the integration of the pillars of an entrepreneurial mindset into Engineering curriculum and the development of Sparky's Vista, a freshman-oriented workshop presented to over 1,500 students each summer
- Worked with Project Manager to complete quarterly and annual grant reports
- Supervised multiple student workers, including the Program Assistant and Entrepreneurial Catalysts, and oversaw the Kern Grant University Innovation Fellows team
- Reviewed undergraduate research applications for integration of an entrepreneurial mindset and provided training, funding, and mentorship to students who applied innovative thinking to projects

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

- Zecher, T. A Qualitative Examination of Social and Science Identities Prior to a Post-Baccalaureate Research Program. NARST 2024, Denver, CO.
- Zecher, T. Memoirs of Middle Management. 2024 Arizona Women in Higher Education Conference, Phoenix, AZ.
- Bloom, N. & Zecher, T. Let's talk: A framework for empowering post-secondary students to advance research impacts. 2024 ARIS Conference Proceedings, Omaha, NE.
- Zecher, T. & Ozis, F. The Impact of Faculty Mindset on Communication and Professor-Student Rapport. ASEE 2022 Conference Proceedings, Minneapolis, MN.
- Zecher, T., Ingram, J., & Rodas, C. Understanding Faculty Perceptions of Equity for Diverse Populations. AAC&U 2022 Conference on Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, New Orleans, LA.
- Ozis, F., Zecher, T., & Bloom, N. Evaluation of an EPIC Student Experience to Broaden Participation in Engineering Programs. ASEE 2021 Conference Proceedings, Virtual.
- Zecher, T. (2020). Assessment that Counts: Measuring Gains from Undergraduate Research Based on University Learning Outcomes. Northern Arizona University. *2020 Showcase of Strategies for Student Success*, Flagstaff, AZ. [Cancelled due to COVID-19.]
- Zecher, T. (2019). Assessment that Counts: Measuring Gains from Undergraduate Research Based on University Learning Outcomes. Council on Undergraduate Research. *2019 Undergraduate Research Programs Division Conference*, Columbus, OH.
- Zecher, T. (2019). RAMP: The Framework for RAMPing up Undergraduate Research Participation through a Peer Mentoring Program. Council on Undergraduate Research. *2019 Undergraduate Research Programs Division Conference*, Columbus, OH.

GRANTS

- Bloom, Canipe, Shollenberger, Zecher, & Ladner. Creating a More Inclusive Network and Orientation through STEM Community Engagement (CAMINOS), NSF HSI Implementation and Evaluation Project (\$499,906).
- Lee, Gustafson, Zecher, & McKiernan. NAU Cultural and Academic Research Experience, Flinn Foundation (\$300,000).
- Ingram, Knight, Rodas & Zecher. Understanding Faculty Perceptions of Equity Concepts for Diverse Populations. Dean's Summer Research Grant (\$5,000).
- Hamlin & Zecher. Diné Co-designed Culturally Responsive Robotics Curriculum. Braitmayer Foundation (\$35,000).
- Clark, Rubino-Hare, Ryan, Hamlin, Bloom & Zecher. Planetary Learning that Advances the Nexus of Engineering, Technology and Science (\$4,000,000).
- Allen, Smith & Zecher. The Big IDEA/La Gran IDEA. 100,000 Strong for the Americas (\$25,000).

AWARDS AND AFFILIATIONS

Advancing Research Impact in Society, 2022 Fellow
American Educational Research Association member, 2021-Present
American Evaluation Association member, 2020-Present
Love of Learning Scholarship Recipient, 2021
College of Education Diversity Task Force, Department Representative, 2020-2022
American Association of Colleges & Universities Certified VALUE Critical Thinking Rubric Rater, 2020-Present
Council on Undergraduate Researcher elected representative, 2019-Present
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi member, 2019-Present

EDUCATION

PH.D. IN CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

Northern Arizona University | Est. Completion December 2025 | FLAGSTAFF, AZ

M.ED. IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP – COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Northern Arizona University | March 2019 | FLAGSTAFF, AZ

BS IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMICS/FINANCE

University of Texas at Dallas | May 1999 | RICHARDSON, TX