



Office of  
**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Monthly updates from OUR team to yours!

**FEBRUARY 2022**



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**UPCOMING DEADLINES**

**March 11 - Funding Opportunity**  
[Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program \(UROP\), Summer 2022](#)

**Monthly - [Small & Travel Grants](#)**  
Available on a monthly-basis to all undergraduates doing research at the U

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

For Black History month, the Office of Undergraduate Research would like to take a moment to recognize Black faculty, staff and student brilliance in research at the University of Utah. The University of Utah's thriving research community is due to the diverse community of researchers across fields who innovate to pave the way for future researchers and who are committed to solving societal problems through research. We recognize that this list is not exhaustive, and the work is so dynamic. Here are some highlights of research that is occurring at the University of Utah:

- [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program Scholars](#): Kian Ben-Jacob (Spring 2022) Creation of a Digital Twin for a High-Power Model Rocket as Proof of Concept; Bryce Cheek (Fall 2021) Implantable antennas and Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) for Depression; Nadge Nayituriki (Fall 2021) intimate partner violence prevention and reproductive health care in Utah; and Katherine Nielson (Spring 2021) I Gig, You Gig: Working in a Gig-Economy as a Woman of Color.
- Mentoring relationships are central to undergraduate research:
  - [Dr. Tiffany Baffour](#), Associate Professor of Social Work conducts a "Scoping Review of Anti-Racism Training in Higher Education: Implications for Transforming Organizational Culture." (SPUR 2022)
  - Interested in finding a mentor? [Dr. William Smith](#) is notable for coining the term racial battle fatigue as a means to understand the impacts of micro-aggressions and macro-aggressions on the Black community (A UROP mentor, cohort 2017). And [Summer Program Partner, Dr. Tino Nyawelo](#) is the director for diversity and recruitment with the Center for Science and Mathematics Education. Humanities scholars are on fire, learn from scholars like [Associate Dean Joy Pierce](#), [Dr. Rachel Griffin](#) and [Assistant Vice President Mayra Washington](#). And [Dr. Charles Rogers](#) is leading the way in cancer research. Check out Professor Leslie Patrice Culver research on South African lawyers; Professor Erika George (also the director of the Tanner Humanities Center) recent book with Oxford University Press, *Incorporating Rights: Strategies to Advance Corporate Accountability*. Hangout at the Sorenson Impact Center with [Dr. Tiana Rogers](#).
- [The Black Cultural Center](#) celebrates excellence at the University of Utah - there you will find amazing research, pedagogues and thought leaders who are recognized for their work: Dr. Ariel Blair, Jatara Smith, Dr. Charles R. Rogers, and Cha McNeil have been recognized with the Marcus Garvey Black Star Excellence Award; Dr. Valerie Flattes, Jacquée Williams, Dr. Tino Shawish Nyawelo, and Jeilani Athman for the Madam C.J. Walker Resource Award; Dr. Laurence Parker, Asma Hassan, Dr. Crystal Rudds, and Tramaine Jones for the Malcolm X Award of Social Justice; Dr. Paula Smith, Katy Riney, Dr. Erika George and Sheila Sconiers for the Maya Angelou Award of Innovation; and Dr. William Smith, Nona Richardson, Dr. Steven Bell and Portia Anderson for the James McCune Smith Award of Veneration.

# Learning at the Cutting Edge of Research

## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EDUCATION SERIES (URES)

The Office of Undergraduate Research launched the Undergraduate Research Education Series in 2015, a series of educational events on topics of interest to undergraduate student researchers and their faculty mentors. These events are open to all and are designed specifically with undergraduate students and the undergraduate research trajectory in mind. The events are categorized by tracks to help students identify which events would be most helpful to them:

- Research Basics & Skill-building
- Social Justice & Ethics in Research
- Research Collaboration & Communication
- Careers & Research

Since its inception, the URES has offered 52 unique events, with several of those events repeating regularly (e.g., Creating Effective Research Posters and Writing Abstracts). New titles are added every semester. Faculty and educators are encouraged to attend the events that are currently being offered with remote and in-person options. To submit ideas for a workshop that you would like to see or are interested in leading, contact Shiver at our@utah.edu.

## OUR REMINDERS & EVENTS

### **Request a class presentation**

Learn about undergraduate research and OUR opportunities.

### **Post a research opportunity**

Opportunities posted on the OUR website, a searchable database, and on social media.

### **OUR virtual drop-in advising hours**

Wednesdays 3 - 4pm and Thursdays 8-9am

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/98174369226>

Meeting ID: 981 7436 9226

Passcode: research

**Research on Capitol Hill** – Tue, February 8 at the Utah State Capitol Rotunda from 9AM-1PM.

**Utah Conference on Undergraduate Research** (UCUR) – 35+ UofU students will be presenting their research at Dixie State University on Friday, February 25.

**Datathon4Justice** – March 25 and March 26: Register for the Datathon and the Workshop Series.

### **Undergraduate Research Education Series**

**Tue, Feb 1 @ 10:30-11:30AM** - Library Research

**Fri, Feb 4 @ 12-1PM** - Mentor Panel

**Wed, Feb 6 @ 11AM-12PM** - Bodies in Space

**Wed, Feb 23 @ 1-2PM** - Community-Based Research

## BECOME A POSTER EVALUATOR

Faculty, postdoctoral scholars, graduate students, and staff with research-focused degrees are invited to evaluate undergraduate research posters presented at the 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS).

URS - Spring, Tuesday, April 5, Union Ballroom (3 sessions: 9-10:30AM, 10:45AM-12:15PM, 1-2:30PM) or virtually on our website (9:00AM-5:00PM). Virtual and in-person evaluators needed.

Please [click here to register as an evaluator](#). For every 5 posters, earn one entry for a drawing to win your choice of an Apple Watch or a speaker/digital assistant device - your choice!

## CHANGES TO UROP

To reflect the University of Utah's commitment to prepare students of diverse backgrounds, OUR added a question (for mentors): how does the undergraduate researcher's project support diversity in research? OUR encourages faculty to connect with EDI or OHEDI efforts, to learn more about diversity. Dr. Fukushima, the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies and the Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, is available for consultation. To commit to supporting a diversity of mentors, OUR is capping the number of mentees a single mentor can be awarded to work with at: 4 mentees. Lastly, UROP participants are required to meet with an OUR advisor at least once.