

The Kellogg Fund for Transformative Undergraduate Research Engagement (Kellogg FuTURE Program)

Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$ 130,000

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Project Description

Undergraduate Research is now widely embraced across US higher education as a high-impact practice that increases student learning, self-confidence, and scholarly engagement. Students involved in undergraduate research are more likely to graduate from college, pursue a post-graduate education, and succeed in their chosen careers. (For supporting references, see: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~urbronco/practices.shtml>)

This proposal calls for an umbrella program at Cal Poly Pomona to coordinate and enhance opportunities for mentored undergraduate inquiry and scholarship across all eight colleges. The Kellogg FuTURE Program builds on the success of the faculty-led UR Bronco Project (<http://www.csupomona.edu/~urbronco/>) that established a foundation for cross-disciplinary dialogue and coordination of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activities on campus. The UR Bronco Project was the outcome of CPP participation in the 2008 CSU-CUR Workshops on Institutionalizing Undergraduate Research. UR Bronco has accomplished all short-term goals described in its Action Plan (see web site). This Kellogg Legacy proposal now addresses medium and long-term goals by establishing an endowment and a centralized campus program to support undergraduate research, ensuring that it remains a permanent part of campus culture. The Kellogg FuTURE Program will specifically support underrepresented students through scholarships, training, and mentoring. This proposal also supports CPP involvement in the new CSU Undergraduate Research Consortium and system workshop planned for Oct 2011.

Undergraduate research is a cornerstone of the Cal Poly Pomona Learn by Doing tradition. The campus has many fine programs that promote undergraduate research including McNair Scholars, MBRS-RISE, CSU-LSAMP, and CCRAA. Faculty members from across disciplines also support undergraduate research and creative activities through individual external grants. All of these programs have been shown to improve student retention, graduation rates, and postgraduate success. However, the campus lacks a centralized funded program to support and assess undergraduate research activities. Experience at other universities shows that success of undergraduate research programs is greatly enhanced by the presence of a central office. Many CPP programs have been duplicating efforts and only recently have begun to work together.

A key goal of this proposal, therefore, is to increase coordination among programs through shared efforts in recruiting and training of students and mentors, data recording, assessment of learning outcomes, and the celebration of student achievements through presentations and symposia. In addition to increasing coordination among campus undergraduate

research programs, this proposal will meet the goals of the Kellogg Endowment by funding economically and socially disadvantaged students who currently “fall between the cracks”, and thus are underserved by existing programs.