

February 2024



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

From the Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Works

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Happy February!

The Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Works (URCW) is so excited for Spring! We have some amazing opportunities coming up that will showcase the hard work our students have been doing all year. Keep reading to learn more about these events and to see what a few of our students have been up to lately!

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OUR MISSION is to bring together undergraduate students and faculty members for the purpose of creating unique and collaborative projects. By fostering an imaginative research experience, we hope to promote the development of new competencies, encourage critical thinking skills, inspire students to add to the global sum of human knowledge, and help students develop the skills to be competitive in the marketplace.

Created by Emma Gilchrist '26

www.highpoint.edu/urcw/

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HIGH-PURCS 2024



Each year, the Office of URCW hosts High Point University's Research & Creativity Symposium (High-PURCS). This is an exclusive opportunity for our students from all different fields of study to showcase their work. At last year's event, we had **254** student presenters, mentored by **73** faculty members, in **18** different categories. We invite you to come experience High-PURCS on April 16, 2024 and check out all the amazing projects our students have prepared and see how its done! (Classes are cancelled this day!)

Abstracts due March 14, 2024

Congratulations Salem!

This month we would like to recognize Salem Rainwater for her hard work and dedication as a member of our Research Rookies program. This curriculum strives to equip students with fundamental skills that will help them to be valuable collaborators in creative and scholarly work. Upon completion of the program, we hope Salem will feel confident in her research abilities and ready to take on any project that comes her way!



All About NCUR



“The National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship and creative activity in all fields of study by sponsoring an annual conference for students. Unlike meetings of academic professional organizations, this gathering of student scholars welcomes presenters from all institutions of higher learning and from all disciplines. Overall, this conference offers a unique environment for the celebration and promotion of undergraduate student achievement; provides models of exemplary research, scholarship, and creative activity; and offers student career readiness development.” (cur.org/events-services/ncur/)

Mentioned below are 5 of the 7 High Point University NCUR 2024 presenters!



Jenna Mastropolo is a double major in chemistry and physics. Her work titled, “Exploring Biomimetic Patterned Surfaces to Combat Bacterial Biofilm Growth” was completed under the guidance of Dr. Briana Fiser. Jenna is eager to present at NCUR and to connect with students in different fields of study.



Alexa Schuette is a psychology major and strategic communication major. Her NCUR project is titled, “The Effects of Gender and Parents’ Perceptions on Children’s Science Identity.” Dr. Sarah Vaala has mentored Alexa in this process. Alexa stated, “I have been able to present in the past, but the presentation was virtual as a result of COVID protocols. I am excited to fully experience the conference and share my work with others!”

All About NCUR (cont'd.)



Cameron Siler-Nixon is pursuing majors in biochemistry, sociology and anthropology, and chose to conduct her research on, “Distortion Product Otoacoustic Emissions in Ears with Hearing Instability.” She has been mentored by Dr. Michael Hoa. Cameron is excited to present research she is passionate about alongside students from across the country.



Maggie Selman is a double major in political science and strategic communications with a history minor. She will be presenting her work, “Nurturing Future Scientists: Child Science Identity as a Moderator in Science Media Engagement and STEM Career Aspirations.” She has been closely mentored by Dr. Sarah Vaala. Maggie is excited to attend her first academic conference and hear about the research conducted by other students.



Izzie Marshall is a double major in biology and music. She will be presenting her work, “The Effect of Antibiotic Adjuvants on Linezolid-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*” which she completed under the mentorship of Dr. Meghan Blackledge. Izzie is excited to present at NCUR as well as support her fellow HPU students.

Student Work Supported by URCW Research Grants

Department Name	Description	Location
Music	Last month, Aaron Jackson received a travel grant to attend his drum audition with faculty mentor, Professor Louis Kolker.	Diamond Bar, CA
Music	This month, Johnny Pohlman, Cate Stamper, and Irene Dutescu attended the National Association of Teachers of Singing to compete in a classical competition, alongside faculty members Dr. Jaclyn Surso and Dr. Ken Davis.	University of North Carolina Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
Chemistry	Halie Balogh, Kiara Busby, Chloe Cox, Sadie Flagg, Emily Gillis, Madison Hill, Nadia Khan, Owee Kirpekar, Jenna Mastropolo, Abigail Nimmo, Angelina Pierre, Robin Stempel, Rachel Watne, Mackenzie Wiseman, Lexie Young, Jalen Dixon, Tristan Kaz, Parker Nyboer, Erik Peterson, and Gabriel Valenzano will travel in March alongside faculty members Dr. Kelsey Kean, Dr. Meghan Blackledge, Dr. Heather Miller, Dr. Todd Knippenberg, and Dr. Brian Augustine to attend the American Chemical Society Spring 2024 National Meeting & Expo.	New Orleans, LA
Biology	Also in March, Biology students Sienna Brown, Michael Wright, Gracie Vickery, Jack Quintana, Cate Summerow, Dominick Latta, Kara Bense, Laird Bickford, Hayes Bowman, Micayla Campbell, Alyson Acquard, Kayleigh Thurston, Paige VanVooren, John Guglielmetti, Alex Logue, Caroline Paccione, Madison Prendergrast, Marie Streng, Elle McKay, and Nina Ritter will travel with faculty members Dr. Bowman, Dr. Hughes, Dr. Kuppinger, and Dr. Crater to the 2024 Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists.	Chattanooga, TN
Psychology	Psychology students Catherine Gallagher, Hannah Taming, Catherine Waldeck, Shira Gold, Alyssa Petito, Ethan Muckerheide, Lily Tucker, Mahoney Cyr, Jane Thompson, Matthew Smith, Isabel Teixeira, Ariana Gabriel, and Alexis Antretter will travel with Dr. Laura Nagy to the Southeastern Psychological Association's annual conference in March. Eight students will be presenting their work.	Orlando, FL
Event & Sport Management	Abigail Hoag will travel with faculty mentor, Dr. Marisa Ritter to present at the Southeast, Central, and South America Federation Annual Conference for Council on Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education in March.	University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC
English	In April, Taylor Galavotti, Julianne Kendrick, and Jowan Williams will present their work at the Annual Convention of Sigma Tau Delta with the guidance of their mentor Dr. Matthew Carlson.	St. Louis, MO

Important Reminders

NCUR

April 8-10, 2024

High-PURCS

April 16, 2024

SuRPS, SuRF, and SuRI

June-July, 2024

REGISTER WITH URCW TODAY!

When we talk about undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative works, there are generally three forms:

- Students collaborating or assisting with faculty members' scholarship
- Students pursuing their own, independent projects, mentored by a faculty member
- Students conducting research, inquiry-based scholarship, or creative activity in the curriculum, developed into a presentation/exhibit

REGISTER YOUR PROJECT

REGISTER WHERE YOU SHOWCASED YOUR WORK

Students in Research

February 2024

3 English	1 World Languages	9 Political Science
17 Psychology	4 Marketing	1 Theater & Dance
11 Religion & Philosophy	3 Anthropology	1 History
3 Engineering	6 Physical Therapy	4 Strategic Communication
44 Chemistry	45 Biology	1 Music
8 Pharmacy	26 Event & Sport Management	3 Athletic Training
3 Medical Sciences	1 Computer Science	5 Physics & Astronomy
4 Exercise Science	5 Service Learning	2 Physician Asst. Studies
39 Game Design	3 Economics	12 Media Production