



March 2025

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter for Undergraduate Research and Creative Works



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March Onwards!

We are marching towards the end of the semester, so let's finish strong! Next month, we will see students' research and creative works at High-PURCS. Even if you are not presenting at the event, we would love to see you there. We congratulate our Fulbright finalists for their incredible academic journey. Let's keep the momentum going!

Our Mission

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works' 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.

Connect with Us!



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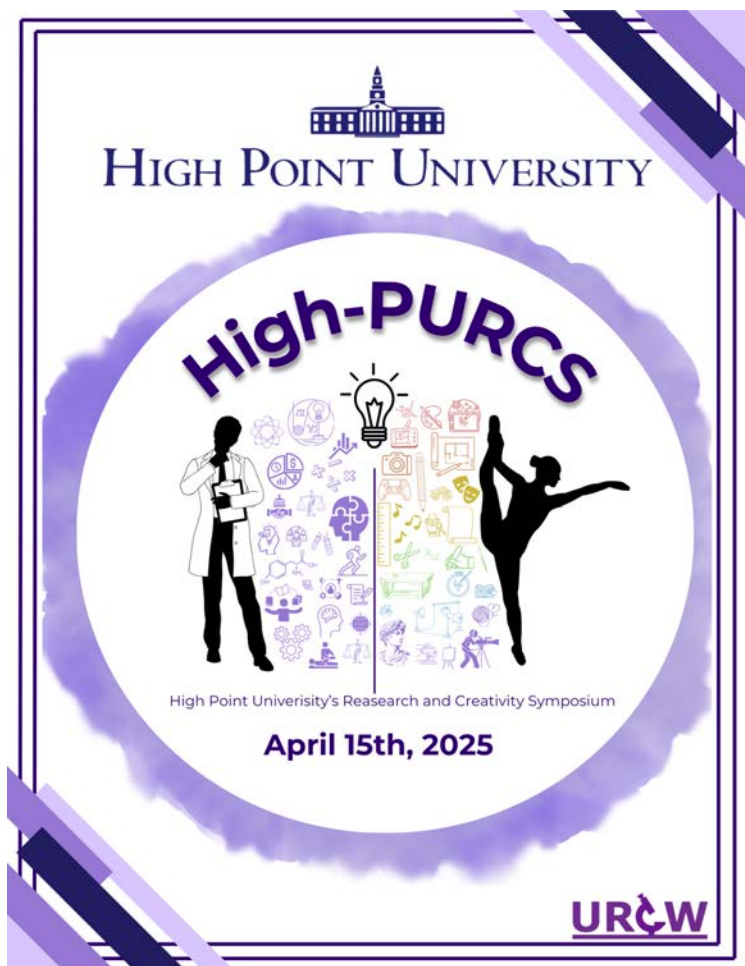
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URCW

Designed by Elsie Clinkenbeard 2026



High-PURCS 2025

High Point University's Research and Creativity Symposium (High-PURCS) is an event where students can present their research and creative works in a supportive and professional environment. All projects are mentored and contribute something new to one's field. We have 241 presentations which is 36% more presentations than last year, with 29 departments represented. We highly encourage students who are not participating in High-PURCS this year to attend and get inspired by their peers' work. High-PURCS will be held at the Nido and Mariana Qubein Conference Center on April 15th (Honors Day).

High-PURCS Schedule

12:30pm - 1:00pm Opening Remarks and Awards

1:00pm - 2:00pm Poster Session I, Exhibits I & Performances I

2:00pm - 3:00pm Oral Session I

3:00pm - 4:00pm Oral Session II

4:00pm - 5:00pm Oral Session III

5:00pm - 6:00pm Poster Session II, Exhibits, Performances II & Reception

Over
400

Students
Presenting

152

Poster
Presentations

68

Oral
Presentations

18

Performances

3

Exhibits



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Research Rookie of the Month

Jackson C. Jones



Each month, a Research Rookie is selected for the greatest progress for that month. This month **Jackson C Jones** is our Research Rookie of the Month

"Research Rookies has been an invaluable experience, sharpening my ability to think critically, ask deeper questions, and navigate complex ideas with confidence through seminars, modules, and discussions. It has given me the tools to not only analyze data but to see the bigger picture, something essential for my future in forensic psychology. The program has connected me with mentors and opportunities that continue to fuel my passion for research and discovery."

Grants



Caydan Brixius traveled to present at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference in Denver, CO, under the mentorship of Alec Szalewski, Kylee Runyan, and Kirsten Piatak. She presented her work titled: "Outcomes of Children with Incarcerated Parents".

"In addition to sharing my work, I had the chance to attend presentations by other researchers, as well as PhD and master's students, and expand my professional network."



The HPU Department of Biology recently took 21 student researchers and 6 faculty to the Annual Meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists, held in Myrtle Beach. Four students presented orally and 17 presented posters.

Serene Alshalabi and **Rachel Smith** are traveling to present their research at the 2025 National Research Conference at Brown University in Providence, RI, under the mentorship of Melike Kahya. Serene will be presenting her work titled: "The Impact of Executive Dysfunction on Brain Activity During Postural Control in Older Adults". Rachel will be presenting her work titled: "The Impact of Fear of Falling on Brain Activity and Cognitive Performance in Older Adults."



Nathan Harvey, **Kennedy Greene**, and **Kenny Pridgen** are traveling to showcase their games at the Penny Arcade Expo (PAX) East in Boston, MA, under the mentorship of Brian Heagney.



Fulbright Finalists

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is the U.S. government's international educational exchange program, where graduating students are provided funding to conduct research and/or pursue academic degrees. For this program, High Point University seniors and alumni have achieved a record number of finalists for HPU.

Eight out of 11 of these finalists have been active participants in undergraduate research opportunities. Through these experiences, they have learned essential skills in communication, public speaking, maintaining professionalism, and effectively showcasing their expertise on topics they are deeply passionate about. In advancing their knowledge and enthusiasm across diverse cultures and communities, they will now use the skills they've developed through extensive research as the basis for their future endeavors.

The following HPU finalists have a strong history within the URCW:



Kristin Salvatore Emma Higgins Mac Mollins Taylor Galavotti



Ethan Muckerheide



Cora Hicks



Nigel Debritto



Savannah Graver

17

High-PURCS presentations

12

URCW-funded grants

5

ForagerOne accounts

Highlights

In 2023, **Taylor Galavotti** worked as the newsletter editor at the URCW office and did summer research for two years. She has also presented her research broadly!

Ethan Muckerheide is a research apprentice and participated in summer research. In 2023, he received the High-PURCS award. He wrote an outside publication called "Anger, Aggression, and Violence: Causes, Pathology, and Treatments". He also has a strong repertoire of presentation.

Congratulations!



Student Profile: High-PURCS Superstar!



Catherine Gallagher

“I very much enjoy and value the experience of presenting at High-PURCS [last year]. I am always excited to share with my peers and professors the research I have worked on, and to see the amazing work my fellow students are doing. High-PURCS is a great opportunity to learn about the variety of work HPU students are doing from scientific research to creative arts performances, and it definitely inspires you to get involved too.”

-Catherine Gallagher

Catherine Gallagher is an undergraduate junior double majoring in psychology and dance. Throughout her time at HPU, she has been mentored to conduct psychology research with Dr. Lipowski and Dr. Nagy, and dance projects with Ms. Howie. Ms. Gallagher took an interest in participating at High-PURCS after participating in the Research Rookies program and volunteering to help at High-PURCS. She enjoyed the supportive environment that High-PURCS generated and wanted to participate in the program herself. She combined her love of dance and psychology to conduct a self-started research study that investigated movement memory and how cognitive patterns impact learning. She's won the SIRG award last year and will present her work at High-PURCS in April. She will be presenting a total of **four** presentations. She has authorship in a 5th presentation. The titles of her presentations are as follows:

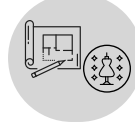
- “Entitled to an easy A?: Dark Triad Traits, Academic Entitlement, and Cheating Attitudes”
- “Storytelling Through Dance: Exploring the Impact of Learning Strategies and Cognitive Styles on Movement,”
- “Understanding the Relationship Between Self-Injury and Pain Tolerance: The Role of Body Investment”
- The Impact of Positive Emotional Stimuli and Mood States on False Memory”

Thanks to presentations at High-PURCS and other conferences that URCW funded, she has developed the skills and confidence to take part in various research opportunities and present those findings. Each year of High-PURCS adds more practice and confidence for real-world presentations, crucial for her development, not only as a student but for her future in the business world. We cannot wait to see your works shine, Catherine! Good luck!



Students in Research

From the URCW Registry
Students who have connected with mentors

1  Art & Graphic Design	2  Athletic Training	5  Basic Pharmaceutical Science	71  Biology	79  Chemistry	1  Communication & Business	10  Computer Science
2  Criminal Justice	1  Economics	3  Educator Preparation	2  Electrical & Computer Engineering	26  English	39  Event & Hospitality Management	9  Game Design
5  Health & Human Performance	7  History	3  Interior Design, Furnishing & Fashion Merchandising	21  Marketing	6  Mathematical Sciences	10  Media Production	1  Medical Science
69  Music	5  Neuroscience	2  Nursing	16  Physical Therapy	7  Physics & Astronomy	1  Political Science	51  Psychology
18  Religion & Philosophy	7  Sociology & Anthropology	24  Theater & Dance	19  World Languages Literatures & Cultures	Total 530		

