

HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
THE PREMIER LIFE SKILLS UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Research and Creative Works

SPOTLIGHT

The Official Newsletter for Undergraduate Research & Creative Works



MISSION STATEMENT

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.

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WELCOME BACK!

With the start of the 2025-2026 school year well underway, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Works is excited to bring you our monthly newsletter once again! Every month, look for updates on opportunities offered through URCW, important announcements, and highlights celebrating the successes of you and your peers in your creative and research endeavors. We look forward to getting to know you this year and are here to support you in getting involved!

WHERE CAN I GET STARTED?



RESEARCH ROOKIES!

Are you a freshman looking to get involved with research or collaborative projects?

Research Rookies is a program available through the URCW to freshmen who are looking to build unique, resume-ready skills through undergraduate research and collaborative experiences alongside a community of fellow scholars. As a Research Rookie, you will have two consecutive semesters to complete a total of 15 activities and one mini-research experience that will assist in building foundational research skills, which include completing online assignments, participating in workshops, and attending discussions. Upon completion of the program, Research Rookies will be awarded with the title “Research Apprentice” and will receive a certificate and medal to wear at graduation!

RESEARCH ROOKIE OF THE MONTH: ALEX DAILY



Congratulations to our September Research Rookie, Alex Daily! When asked how Research Rookies has been meaningful to him, Alex said, “Research Rookies has been an incredible journey that has greatly enhanced my growth as a researcher. Through this program, I have refined my critical thinking skills, learned to view the bigger picture in research problems, and gain hands-on experience with essential tools for research. Beyond technical skills, it has improved my confidence to explore new research fields, and approach research with an open mind. I now feel prepared to conduct future research and contribute new knowledge in the field of cybersecurity.”

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

While the deadline to join the Research Rookies program for the fall has passed, there is still an opportunity to join for the spring semester! Meetings for the spring cohort will start at the end of the semester.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO SIGN UP FOR
RESEARCH ROOKIES
INTEREST MEETINGS
FOR THE SPRING
SEMESTER!



WONDERING WHAT BEING A RESEARCH APPRENTICE IS LIKE? MEET JACKSON JONES!



Jackson Jones ('28) is a Psychology Major with a Criminal Justice minor who completed the Research Rookies program last year and is now a “Research Apprentice.” Jones spoke on the value of Research Rookies,

saying, “The Research Rookies program is more than just an academic opportunity, it is a space where I can sharpen my skills, explore my passions, and use research as a way to serve others. It has shown me how curiosity and hard work can create impact, and it is preparing me to step into leadership with both confidence and purpose.”

RECOGNIZING SUMMER RESEARCH STUDENTS

Every year, numerous students participate in one of the URCW's three summer research programs: SuRI, SuRPS, and SuRF. These students come from a variety of disciplines, and are paired with mentors who guide them through the research process in accordance with the guidelines of their projects. Congratulations to the 72 students whose hard work and dedication led to their successful completion of one of our three programs this summer. Read some of their takeaways from summer research below!

WHAT DID RESEARCH MEAN TO YOU THIS SUMMER?

COLT MARION

SuRI
Class of 2026
Cuyer de Cocina: Early Colonial Spanish-American Kitchens and Society



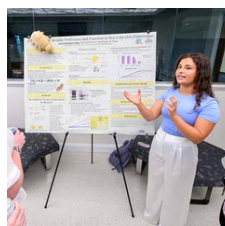
"As an aspiring historian, I need to be able to work with original documents, but my topic revolves around 16th century Mexico. I went into this not being able to speak Spanish well, but now I can translate 16th century Spanish straight from the original document. That level of competence is something that's self-taught and research is the gauntlet that took me there."

ABBY FORT

SuRI
Class of 2026
Evaluating Biases in Criminal Profiling



"I am a psychology major researching social psychology and how that applies to the separate field of criminal justice. I adapted what I know about my field, such as automatic biases, to the more tangible criminal profiling tool used in investigative processes. I learned about the natural mistakes that I make so I can preemptively avoid them by taking a little more time at the beginning so that in the end I'm just smooth coasting."

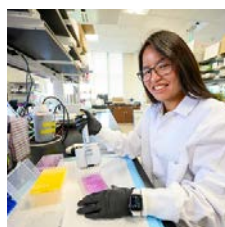


ALEXA KLEIN

SuRF
Class of 2028
Targeting BCAA Metabolism for Metabolic Benefit in a Model of Skeletal Muscle Insulin Resistance



"Participating in summer research gave me firsthand experience with the scientific method, from forming a hypothesis to collecting data and preparing a manuscript. I learned that the research process is not always linear, but every mistake is an opportunity to learn and improve."

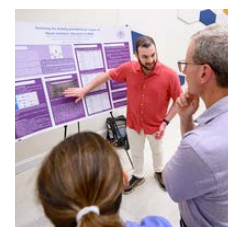


AMELIA MORELAND

SuRF
Class of 2026
Atherosclerosis and Macrophage Polarization



"Not only did I gain hands-on experience with the experimental process, but I also strengthened my research skills and presented successful results to the program. It was an honor to explore the field of macrophage polarization and contribute—even in a small way—to the search for disease prevention."



AUBREY FESSLER

SuRPS
Class of 2028
Exploring the Rheological Properties of PDMS



"Through SuRPS, I was able to continue working on my research from the spring with Professor Brooks, who has been an incredible mentor from the start. I was also able to get closer to the other girls in my lab. Summer research allowed me to improve upon my research skills and make new friends!"



KALEY LEFEVRE

SuRPS
Class of 2026
Synthesizing Antibiotic Adjuvants Using Carbazole Variants



"I became really good at troubleshooting reactions that did not go according to plan! There were several unforeseen bumps in the road which required me to be able to adapt and change course so I could achieve the goals we set out to accomplish."



SNCURCS

State of North Carolina
Undergraduate Research & Creativity Symposium
November 15, 2025



Scan the QR
Code if you
plan to attend!



Planning to attend SNCURCS as an Undergraduate Presenter, Faculty Mentor, or Research Rookie?

Sign up with us by **OCT 1ST**,
URCW will pay for registrations and arrange
transportation.

Presenters must ALSO submit their abstracts by **OCT 3RD**
to the SNCURCS website:

www.sncurcs.org

WHAT IS SNCURCS?

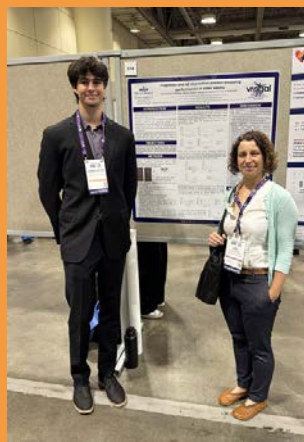
SNCURCS is an opportunity to present your research among roughly 500 other undergraduates from across the state of North Carolina. Help show off High Point University's academic excellence, gain experience and confidence, and build credentials for your resume that employers are looking for!

FUND YOUR RESEARCH/CREATIVE WORKS PROJECTS

The High Point University Undergraduate Research and Creative Works Program is committed to encouraging and supporting high-quality undergraduate research and creative projects. To that end, the University has made funds available to support student and faculty mentor travel to present research or creative work, participate in competitions or performances, and support work in progress. If you're interested in applying for a URCW grant, scan the QR code to the right!



STUDENTS TRAVEL ON URCW GRANTS



Christopher Phillips ('27) attended the Alzheimer's Association International Conference 2025 (AAIC) in Toronto, Canada, in July, accompanied by

his mentor, Dr. Lisa Zukowski, an associate professor of physical therapy. With support from a URCW grant, Phillips presented his research poster titled "Cognition and A β deposition predict grocery shopping performance in older adults."

STUDENTS IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORKS

From the URCW Registry



ARE YOU COUNTED?

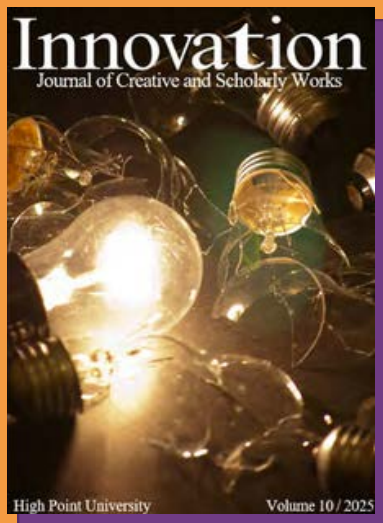
The URCW tracks the number of students who are undertaking new research and creative projects across all disciplines at High Point University. By registering your work with URCW, you not only contribute to highlighting the achievements of your department, but also help us record the diverse creative works happening on campus. This allows us to reach out with valuable resources relevant to your goals and endeavors! Sign up on the registry if you are:

1. Collaborating or assisting with faculty members' academic research or creative work
2. Pursuing your own independent projects that are mentored by a faculty member
3. Further developing research or creative work done in class into a presentation or exhibit for a broader audience

Scan the QR Code below to register your research and creative works!



INNOVATION IS BACK!



Issue 10 of the HPU journal, *Innovation: Journal of Creative and Scholarly Work*, is now published! View the impressive work of 14 students at the link below:

<https://www.highpoint.edu/urcw/hpu-journal/>

FIND YOUR MENTOR

Are you looking for a mentor to guide you in your desired field of study? Create an account with **ForagerOne**! The URCW uses ForagerOne as our platform to assist students in finding their faculty mentor. By creating an account, you can search for HPU faculty, explore their fields, see the research and creative projects they are working on, and find current openings to join their teams.

Click on the link to make your account:

<https://www.highpoint.edu/urcw/2807-2/>

FORAGERONE

Helping Students Pursue Research Opportunities

Learn more at foragerone.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: APPRENTICE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

OCTOBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

The Research Apprentice Recognition Ceremony will be held on **October 24th** from 4:30-5 PM in the Wilson Ballroom. We look forward to celebrating the Research Apprentices from the 2024-2025 school year and all of their accomplishments!

JOIN US!

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH!



urcw@highpoint.edu



highpoint.edu/urcw



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