

TO: Idaho SBOE HERC  
FROM: Deb Easterly, Ed.D, Asst. VP for Research  
DATE: August 20, 2021  
RE: ISU FY 21 Undergraduate Research SBOE HERC Funds Report

Even though COVID made research more difficult in 2020-21, the experiences the ISU undergraduate students had were beneficial. Students who might not have had a research experience were able to work with ISU faculty on projects in their disciplines.

This year ISU instituted a new process to spend the SBOE HERC undergraduate research funds. In *The Undergraduate Experience* (2016), the authors state, “undergraduate research is a process that, at its best, moves students to new levels as learners and inquirers. The relationship between mentor and protégée can be transformative because it is rooted in an ongoing, substantive interaction around an essential part of the academic enterprise, scholarly research” (p.48). This was the guiding theme of the program for this year. Awards were made to faculty who proposed not only a research project, but also one that included mentoring opportunities. Awards were made to four projects that included 2-3 undergrad students. Attached reports from students and faculty describe successful mentoring experiences.

Three awards were made later in the year that included 1-2 students. In doing this process, we were trying to set the stage for more of a mentored experience. Faculty had to commit to mentor plans. Students were ensured that they would be working with at least one other student and not on their own.

Twenty-two students were involved in the above-described process.

\$10000 was awarded to the ISU McNair project to assist with attendance at conferences to make presentations and research projects of seven STEM students.

A camera and tablet were purchased for two students who were conducting research with a math professor via zoom because of COVID. This enabled the three of them to work on-line and share work with each other.

Three students were awarded registration fees to attend and present at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

The ISU Undergraduate research symposium was held virtually this year, because of COVID. A live session with speakers was held on Zoom and posters were available for viewing on ForagerOne. ISU students presented 23 posters.

Twenty-four ISU undergrads presented at the 2021 ICUR.

See the attached for reports on individual projects, including posters that were presented by students.

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