

The Office for Research would like to thank the Idaho State Board of Education Higher Education Research Council for the Strategic Initiative Undergraduate Research funding for \$55,000 that we received.

The funding was a very successful in growing our Undergraduate Research in the STEM fields.

With these funds, we were able to support 10 research projects and help support 19 students in traveling to professional conferences.

The students have been very vocal in expressing their appreciation for the financial support and mentoring that has given them an opportunity to experience research and grow their knowledge of conducting research in higher education. Many of them have expressed that they will be continuing their education and seeking a Masters or PhD in a STEM field.

When students participate in an opportunity such as these funds have provided it is quite the thing to see them grow in education, skills, and confidence.

The student posters and individual reports have been compiled in a Box file that have been shared with you.

Idaho State University Office for Research would like to thank the Idaho State Board of Education for the additional \$32,000 in Strategic Initiative Undergraduate funding. This funding has enabled us to increase our Undergraduate Research activity and enhance our undergraduate research mentoring program. Students were required to complete an application that outlined their academic goals and how they expected to benefit from the funds. In addition, the Office for Research saw this as an opportunity to LISTEN to our undergraduate students and learn what they thought about research. We included a page with the application with questions about mentoring and research. We will use the answers to help us improve our Undergraduate mentoring program.

Our Undergraduate research students have continually showed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in Undergraduate research and have told us how their research experience has changed their lives.

This enhanced terms and conditions allowed us to distribute these funds a bit differently. We were able to support our Department of Biology by awarding them \$17,000 for their Undergraduate Research faculty and students. The \$17,000 supported 15 faculty in undergraduate research projects, 18 Undergraduate students that are pursuing a degree in Biological Sciences.

One student utilized \$1,000 of these funds to assist in hosting the first Psi Chi Psychology conference here at Idaho State University. These funds were a huge benefit to our Undergraduate students who would not have the funding to travel to a regional conference in a neighboring state. While bringing a diversity of attendees for our Undergraduate students to have the opportunity to network with, it also puts ISU and our Undergraduate research in Psychology program in the spotlight. Undergraduate students from other universities have been able to see and experience our university, our Undergraduate research students, faculty, and Psychology programs.

With these funds, we also awarded six undergraduate research students funding to attend and present at a conference and funded another five Undergraduate research projects.

The students' reports and copies of posters are available on Box in a file that will be shared with Dr. Cathleen McHugh.