TO: Idaho SBOE HERC

FROM: Deb Easterly, Ed.D, Asst. VP for Research

DATE: December 1, 2022

RE: ISU FY 22 Undergraduate Research SBOE HERC Funds Report

In FY 21 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 six projects that included 2-3 undergrad students each. Attached reports from students and faculty describe successful mentoring experiences. Faculty were from Biological Sciences, Math, Civil Engineering, Psychology, Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering.

Seventeen students were involved in the above-described process. Thirteen students were awarded travel funds to attend research conferences across the country. Three students presented posters at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research.

$10,000 was awarded to the ISU McNair project to assist with attendance at conferences to make presentations and conduct research projects. The remaining $1200 that was not spent out of the $10,000 was awarded to one of the 6 funded faculty projects.

Three students received partial funding to attend the Belize Valley Archaeological Reconnaissance Project. The BVAR Project has been conducting archaeological research in central Belize since 1988 with the initiation of excavations at the ancient Maya site of Cahal Pech. Cahal Pech and Baking Pot are among the largest prehistoric Maya sites in the upper Belize River Valley and served as the capitals of medium-sized kingdoms in the Classic period (ca. AD 250-900).

The ISU Undergraduate Research symposium was held in-person after 2 years of being online because of Covid. Thirty-two students participated. The abstracts of their posters are attached.

Nineteen ISU undergrads presented at the 2021 ICUR.

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

Prepared by Deb Easterly, EdD, Assistant VP for Research, Idaho State University