



Undergraduate research is a high-impact practice that enhances student engagement, retention, completion, and success.

URSA Activities

- **URSA Student Project Awards:** Funding for original research and creative scholarly projects pairing undergraduates with faculty mentors at all UAF campuses.
- **URSA Student Travel Awards:** Funding for travel by undergraduates to support or present their original research.
- **URSA Internship Awards:** Funding for undergraduate internships external to UAF.
- **URSA Mentoring Awards:** Funding for mentors (faculty, postdoctoral researchers, graduate students) to enhance or develop opportunities for undergraduate research, especially recurring opportunities.
- **Curriculum Support and Development:** Development of curricular opportunities for undergraduate research through creation of URSA courses and assistance developing departmental courses such as the Museum Research Apprenticeship Program (MRAP).
- **UAF Research and Creative Activity Day:** An annual celebration and presentation of research by undergraduate students at UAF.
- All URSA student and mentoring awards derive from UAF's reinvestment of 1% ICR into student research. ITE awards derive from 20% of the student technology fee.

URSA Impact

- Presentations by undergraduates of their research at national and international meetings.
- Publications co-authored by undergraduates in peer-reviewed professional journals.
- Acceptance of UAF baccalaureate graduates to top graduate programs, professional schools and employment

Selected Performance Indicators

UAF undergraduates enrolled in 1 or more research courses

	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER	TOTAL
AY2012	137	210	15	362
AY2013	148	186	31	365
AY2014	134	205	31	370
AY2015	127	226	55	408
AY2016	107	217	47	371
AY2017*	298	338	28	664
AY2018	279	305	11	595
AY2019	123	132	3	258
AY2020	306	192	26	524
AY2021	243	278	46	567
AY2022	223	243	69	535
AY2023	185	276	54	515

*The significant increase in research courses reflects a change in the research course designation process.

URSA Student Awards

AY2012	32 awards	\$93,491
AY2013	45 awards	\$107,967
AY2014	60 awards	\$147,931
AY2015	67 awards	\$176,076
AY2016	62 awards	\$149,627
AY2017	70 awards	\$146,452
AY2018	130 awards	\$192,215
AY2019	70 awards	\$152,352
AY2020	49 awards	\$156,349
AY2021	39 awards *	\$90,195
AY2022	21 awards *	\$72,933
AY2023	39 awards**	\$137,003

*Limited Travel Awards were offered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
** Internship Awards were added in AY2023.

URSA Mentoring Awards

AY2012	5 aw.	\$16,391
AY2013	8 awards	\$31,938
AY2014	10 awards	\$35,203
AY2015	15 awards	\$78,016
AY2016	15 awards	\$69,235
AY2017	13 awards	\$89,400
AY2018	19 awards	\$93,368
AY2019	11 awards	\$51,256
AY2020	6 aw.	\$25,500
AY2021	7 aw.	\$28,331
AY2022	9 awards	\$50,185
AY2023	8 awards	\$57,386

URSA Innovative Technology and Education (ITE) Awards

AY2015	11 awards	\$65,687
AY2016	7 awards	\$58,777
AY2017	10 awards	\$55,150
AY2018	9 awards	\$53,198
AY2019	7 awards	\$45,034
AY2020	8 awards	\$37,600
AY2021	15 awards	\$55,378
AY2022	15 awards	\$79,109
AY2023	14 awards	\$60,686

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA)
Annual Report AY 2022-2023

The mission of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA), which was established in 2011, is to support, develop, and institutionalize UAF's diverse and robust undergraduate research and scholarly activity programs. This activity refers to student-faculty collaboration in the creation of discipline-specific and interdisciplinary knowledge. The primary means by which URSA fulfills its mission are as follows:

1. Provide funding for undergraduate students and faculty who collaborate on research and creative projects and activities;
2. Serve as a clearinghouse for projects that offer undergraduate students and faculty opportunities to collaborate in research or creative projects and activities;
3. Assist UAF faculty, staff, post-doctoral research associates, and graduate students who strive to create or maintain undergraduate research and creative scholarly programs;
4. Create regular events that serve as venues for undergraduate students to present their research and creative projects and activities;
5. Catalog and archive UAF undergraduate student participation in research and creative projects, as well as the outcomes and products of those projects; and
6. Facilitate UAF undergraduate student recruitment and retention initiatives through program-specific initiatives.

Through these programs and initiatives, URSA aims to improve skills in critical thinking, creative problem solving, communication, and methods of inquiry and to engender a culture of life-long learning for all students, as well as enhance preparation and education of undergraduates who will fill the needs of Alaska's 21st century workforce and society. URSA is UAF's resource for the development and promotion of experiential learning activities that engage undergraduate students, regardless of discipline, in support of UAF's goal to be a leading student-oriented research university. Based on the 2019 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) for High-Impact Practices, UAF seniors scored higher than peer institutions on "working with a faculty member on a research project". In this age of ever-increasing information and access to that information, research literacy is a required competence for the entire populace, not just UAF students. Thus, offering opportunities for undergraduate students to participate in research and creative scholarship is a noted best practice in higher education. Building on existing efforts and capacities, URSA attracts, retains, and enables UAF students to pursue varying levels of research and scholarly activity engagement from independent study investigations to senior theses including scholarly exhibits and presentations, performances, or research endeavors.

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA)
Major Accomplishments

1. URSA Administration
 - a. Trent Sutton, UAF CFOS Department of Fisheries, continues as the URSA Director (25% of time year-round).
 - b. Marie-Sylvestre Olesen resigned from the coordinator position in July 2022. Erin Kirchner became the URSA Coordinator in August 2022 and the position has returned to 12-month and full-time.
 - c. The URSA Advisory Board was expanded to include the following UAF faculty and staff: Elaine Drew and Charles Mason from College of Liberal Arts (CLA), Brooke Freeburg and Michael Angaiak from School of Education (SOE), Steffi Ickert-Bond and David Valentine from College of Natural Science and Mathematics (CNSM), Sunwoo Kim and Sveta Stuefer from College of Engineering and Mines (CEM), Ana Aguilar-Islas from College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS), Anshul Pandya and Claudia Ihl from College of Rural and Community Development (CRCDD), Brian Ellingson and Jennifer Tilbury from Community Technical College (CTC), Megan Anderson from Student Support Services (SSS), and Alexandra Fitts (UAF Vice Provost).
 - d. There was no URSA Student Advisory Board for AY2022-2023.
 - e. The URSA Review Panel included the following UAF faculty: Ana Aguilar- Islas, Maher Al-Badri, Elizabeth Alexander, JungHo Baek, Rich Carr, Cheng-Fu Chen, David Denkenberger, Elaine Drew, Devin Drown, Eugenie Euskirchen, Daryl Farmer, Brian Hemphill, Joe Holt, Falk Huettmann, SunWoo Kim, Ilana Kingsley, Cecile Lardon, Amy Lovecraft, Charles Mason, Gerardo Miranda Reina, Mario Muscarella, Elizabeth Nadin, Santosh Panda, Jen Peterson, Inna Rivkin, Eve Ryan, Dev Subhabrata, Lisa Strecker, Renate Wackerbauer, Peter Webley, Sveta Yamin-Pasternak, and Simon Zwieback.
2. Funding Awards
 - a. The total amount of funding awarded by URSA in FY23 was \$324,396 (85 awards total).
 - b. A total of \$ 194,389 was allocated during AY2022-2023 for Undergraduate Student Project Awards (fall/spring/summer projects), Undergraduate Student Travel, Community-Engaged Learning Awards, Internship Awards and Mentoring Awards. All completed travel this academic term took place in-person, rather than virtual attendance.
 - c. We were able to resume an in-person format for Research and Creative Activity Day, held April 6, 2023, and distributed \$2,602 between four Deans' Choice Awards, four Honorable Mention Awards, and two Attendance Door Prizes (\$500 each).
 - d. The funding for the awards that was given out in FY23 was derived from UAF's reinvestment of 1% ICR into undergraduate student research and creative activity. Funding was allocated as follows:
 - i. Fall and Spring Undergraduate Project Awards (18 awards [26 applications] totaling \$56,420)
 - ii. Undergraduate Student Travel Awards (10 awards [10 applications] totaling \$22,592)
 - iii. Summer Undergraduate Research Project Awards (4 awards [12 applications] totaling \$21,491)
 - iv. Internship Awards (6 awards [10 applications] totaling \$36,000)
 - v. Mentoring Awards (8 awards [10 applicants] totaling \$57,386)
 - vi. Community Engaged Learning Awards (1 award [1 applicant] totaling \$500)
 - e. Innovative Technology and Equipment (ITE) Awards (14 awards [16 applicants] totaling \$60,686). The ITE Awards represent a funding line (former UAF Technology Advisory Board [TAB] funds) through URSA which started in 2015 and are used to fund equipment and associated software purchases in support of undergraduate and graduate education and research at UAF. These funds are derived from 20% of the student technology fee.
 - f. Due to unforeseen additional revenue late in the year, a one-time Supplies and Services Award was created, which funded 16 awards [23 applicants], totaling \$67,719.
3. Clearinghouse for Undergraduate Student Opportunities
 - a. URSA continues to serve as UAF's clearinghouse for undergraduate student opportunities to engage in unique projects conducting research or creative scholarly activities. However, the process is informal (reliant on passive communication) and thus quantifying URSA's role as clearinghouse or student-faculty matchmaker is difficult because URSA is not a student program; rather, URSA is an embodiment of UAF's institutional support for undergraduate student and faculty collaboration in research and creative projects.
 - b. Three UAF students enrolled in URSA courses, and 6 students enrolled in MRAP (Museum Research Apprenticeship Program) courses during AY2022-2023 (see 5. Curriculum Development below).
 - c. Twenty-six students (including groups) received URSA funding in support of research or creative scholarship during the fall, spring, and summer of AY2022-2023, and an additional twenty-applicants submitted but did not receive funding (40 total students between individual & group applications). Some of these students may have been matched with their project either directly by URSA or indirectly through URSA's request for proposals. In addition, students seeking advice with respect to identifying research opportunities and/or mentors are frequent in the URSA office (weekly at a minimum and daily in the weeks at the beginning of a semester and around an URSA application deadline date). URSA has not

tracked or followed up with these ad hoc advisees because they do not all apply for funding and, as a result, are not entered into the database.

4. Student Tracking and Project Cataloging

- a. The URSA database currently has 2,952 UAF undergraduates that have been involved in research and creative activity since its creation in 2012.
- b. Since 2012, at least 41% of UAF undergraduate students participated in an academic research experience over the course of their baccalaureate studies. Further, the 2,952 students in the URSA database support that quantification of undergraduate student participation in research. Not included in the accreditation documents and not yet included in the URSA database are undergraduate students who are employed as research assistants. URSA has been working with UAF Human Resources and the UAF Office of Planning, Analysis, and Institutional Research (PAIR) to identify a means to include such students in the database.

5. Curriculum Development

- a. URSA (Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity) courses offered in AY2022-23
 - i. URSA 388 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship II (Instructor: Trent Sutton; Enrollment: 0 students).
 - ii. URSA 488 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship I (Instructor: Trent Sutton; Enrollment: 3 students).
- b. MRAP (Museum Research Apprentice Program) courses offered in AY2022-23
 - i. MRAP 288 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship II (Instructors: Patrick Druckenmiller; Enrollment: 1 student).
 - ii. MRAP 488 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship I (Instructors: Patrick Druckenmiller and Steffi Ickert-Bond; Enrollment: 5 students).

6. Research and Creative Activity Day

- a. The UAF Research and Creative Activity Day was held in-person in the Wood Center on April 6, 2023; a total of 50 UAF undergraduate students presented 42 projects at the event.
- b. Dean's Choice Awards (\$250 per project) as well as Honorable Mentions (\$150 per project) were given to each college or school represented; the awardees and their poster title for each college/school were as follows:
 - i. College of Business and Security Management (CBSM): No Entries
 - ii. College of Engineering and Mines (CEM):
 - a. Dean's Choice Award: Apryle Collison, Jenni Klebesadel, Heather McKenzie | *The Streaming Service*
 - b. Honorable Mention: Alexis Francisco | *Utility and Residential Solar Resource Assessment and Modeling for Alaska's Railbelt Transmission System*
 - iii. College of Fisheries and Ocean Science (CFOS):
 - a. Dean's Choice Award: Isabelle Nicolier | *Sample of the Population Genomics of Pacific Herring in the Bering Sea Using mtDNA*
 - b. Honorable Mention: Kristen Reece | *A Comparison of Arctic Grayling Abundance to the Sprawling Patterns of Chinook and Chum Salmon in the Chena River*
 - iv. College of Liberal Arts (CLA):
 - a. Dean's Choice Award: Brooke Fisher | *A Tooth Size Allocation Investigation into Bodo Origins: Revisited*
 - b. Honorable Mention: Meredith McMahon | *"Girls," "Dancers," and "Ladies": Language, Gender and Power in a Gentlemen's Club*
 - v. College of Natural Science and Mathematics (CNSM):
 - a. Dean's Choice Award: *DART: Detection of Antimicrobial Resistance Toolbox*
 - b. Honorable Mention: Josie Beauchamp | *Safari 20SG Insecticide Inhibits the Growth of the Fungal Pathogen Neodothiora*
 - vi. College of Rural and Community Development (CRCD): No Entries

7. Student Highlights:

- a. Tehya McLeod (DGS—Interdisciplinary Studies: Drafting and Design) curated an exhibit of original artwork, titled *Exploring Shifting Landscapes*, from her experiences meeting with scientists and field sites of the Bonanza Creek Long-Term Ecological Research Program.
- b. Abigail Jensen (CNSM—Biological Sciences) conducted a study examining how Alaskan Wild Blueberries aid sled dogs in their anti-inflammatory and antioxidant response to exhaustive exercise.
- c. Meredith McMahon (CLA—Anthropology) conducted ethnographic research and discourse analysis of interviews with dancers and staff to examine the interplay of language, gender, and power in a local gentlemen's club.

Meredith later received a Travel Award to present her research at the 12th International Gender and Language Conference in Brisbane, Australia.

- d. Isabelle Nicolier (CNSM—Biological Sciences) researched levels of genetic difference in Eastern Bering Sea Herring to determine if distinct species could be identified. Isabelle’s project won the CFOS Dean’s Choice Award at the 2023 RCA Day.
- e. Samantha Allen (CFOS—Fisheries) travelled to Katsina Bay to study the effect of oyster farming on sea otter prey availability.
- f. Xochitl Munoz (CNSM—Geoscience) worked with the UA Museum of the North to document and identify mammal jaw bones from the Prince Creek Foundation (famously known for polar dinosaurs).
- g. Ariana Lopez and Olivia Buzby, (CLA—Music Education) both received travel awards to participate in the Interharmony Music Festival in Piedmont, Italy.
- h. Three travel awards were processed for immersive language learning programs: Aaron Marlow (CBSM—Business Administration) and Zoe Schneider (CNSM—Biological Sciences) for the Laval University French Language Workshop in Quebec, Canada and Vadim Bledsoe (CLA—French Language Certificate) for the Montpellier French Language Summer Program in Montpellier, France.
- i. In the inaugural year of URSA Internship Awards, we supported six student placements: Kristal Bozeman (CLA—Justice) served as a Mentor Coordinator for the Fairbanks Veterans Court, Ethan Stone (DGS—Interdisciplinary Studies: One Health Perspectives) served as a Husbandry Intern for the Alaska Zoo, Jillian McCarley (CLA—Justice) and Jung Woo Maeng (CLA—Communications) interned with the Fairbanks Community Restorative Justice Initiative, Grace Hopkins (CBSM—Homeland Security and Emergency Management) served as a Disaster Cycle Services Intern with the American Red Cross, and Alex Long (DGS—Interdisciplinary Studies: Ecocultural Film and Photography) served as an Assistant Film Crew Member with Seed Media in Valdez, Alaska.

8. Mentor Highlights:

- a. Ben Barst (INE—WERC) worked with Mechanical Engineering students Apryle Collison, Jenni Klebesadel, and Heather McKenzie to design and build an incubation box with video streaming capabilities in order to monitor development of salmon embryos and characterize environmental stressors
- b. Derek Sikes (UAMN—Entomology) conducted a biodiversity assessment of Saint Paul Island endemic nonmarine macroinvertebrates with students: Luke Lawson (Wildlife Biology & Conservation), Lucy White (Fisheries), and Razan Yousif (Psychology).
- c. Amber Perk (CFOS- Fisheries) mentored Fisheries students Ayden See and Kevin Dominguez on key skills such as fish dissection, proximate analysis, and data management while researching the reproductive organs in Arctic Lamprey, *Lethenteron camtschaticum*.
- d. Chandler Kemp (BBC—Sustainable Energy) and Max Johnson (Electrical Engineering) collaborated with the Alaska Marine Highway System to survey charging equipment capable of accommodating the 20 foot tidal range observed at local ports, as well as the community perceptions of the new ferry infrastructure.
- e. Courtney Skaggs (CLA—English) received funds to establish an English Mentoring Program. Courtney mentored Ayden Harris (English) in applying to graduate schools and professional jobs, the publishing process of UAF’s Permafrost literary magazine, and both attended the Association of Writers & Writing Program Conference in Seattle, Washington.

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA)
AY 2022-23 Challenges and Goals

1. **Continue to raise the profile of undergraduate research and scholarly activity at UAF.**
A fundamental aspect of URSA's mission is to ensure that UAF students, faculty, and staff are aware of the opportunities available for undergraduate research and creative scholarly activities. To accomplish this goal, there remains an increased efforts to promote URSA funding opportunities via email (e.g., directed emails to each college/school, UAF-sponsored communications such as The Cornerstone), strategically placed announcements throughout campus, presence and participation in UAF events (e.g., New Student Orientation Resource Fair, Inside Out, New Student Orientation, We Are CLA, UA Scholars night, etc.), hosting tabling events and URSA Office Open Houses, periodic, directed communications with the Deans of the various colleges/schools, revision to the URSA website, attendance and participation in UA and UAF administrative meetings (e.g., Board of Regents, Provost Council, Dean's Council, etc.), and completion of an annual report each year. URSA will also be developing additional means of raising its profile, including student profile postcards, student-mentor videos for display on the URSA website and via eCampus, and meeting with UAF administrators, faculty, and staff during regularly scheduled meetings (e.g., Recruitment Admissions Meeting, Coordinator Meeting, URSA Faculty and Student Advisory Board Meetings, etc.) and impromptu meetings (e.g., Deans, student focus groups, etc.). The ultimate goal of these efforts is to not only better inform the UAF community on URSA's mission and activities, but to also raise awareness and interest for undergraduate research (as well as research in general) at UAF. To facilitate this goal, URSA will print posters for any undergraduate student presenting their research or creative activity at a workshop, meeting, or conference, regardless of their source of funding. In addition, URSA also has dozens of portable display boards for exhibiting posters which are available for any research event taking place on the UAF campus. From the UAF perspective, URSA serves as a student engagement tool; as such, promoting and showcasing undergraduate research and creative scholarship should be a key component of all UAF student events recruitment and retention events since UAF is the leading research institution in the UA system. Ultimately, these efforts will not only yield an increase in the percentage of undergraduates involved in research and creative scholarship at UAF but will also diversify the types of scholarly activities funded by URSA across the UAF colleges/schools.
2. **Improve student tracking, project cataloging, and outcome assessment** of URSA-sponsored and non-URSA-sponsored research. An important data need at UAF requires that URSA obtain and make available accurate numbers of students and mentors engaged in undergraduate research and creative activities. Collecting comprehensive data is a challenge, especially for those students who are engaged in research and creative activities by virtue of holding a position as a student research assistant. The URSA Coordinator works closely with the Office of PAIR (Planning, Analysis, and Institutional Research), UAF Human Resources, and other undergraduate funding initiatives at UAF (e.g., BLaST [Biomedical Learning and Student Training], Honor's Program, RAHI [Rural Alaska Honors Institute], etc.) on student research participation to facilitate the collection of these data. It is also important to track those projects that are funded by URSA, funded by other units, or not funded at all, and to provide this information to the UAF Chancellor and Provost, other administrators in the UAF Provost's Office, and the Deans of the various UAF colleges/schools for informational purposes. This effort will be a priority for URSA this AY, specifically to determine the percentage of students that participate in undergraduate research and scholarly activity at some point during their educational experience at UAF. The URSA staff will work with staff members in the Office of Admissions, Communications and Marketing, and Development to act as a resource for sharing exciting stories that can be used for promotional purposes. In addition to all of this is the need to conduct outcome assessment to determine whether URSA is making a difference in enhancing the educational experience for UAF undergraduates. Part of the challenge here is identifying not only products (e.g., presentations, displays, publications, etc.) generated by students while they are enrolled at UAF but also identifying these same products once students have graduated from the university. Another component to this is tracking where URSA-funded students end up following graduation (e.g., graduate school, professional school, etc.).
3. **Continue to rely on the URSA Advisory Boards and Review Panels** as active resources to develop and enhance current and future opportunities and initiatives as well as provide direction for the URSA mission. The current structure is that one group of faculty and staff assists with general planning (the URSA Advisory Board) and a separate group of faculty (and some staff and student members) reviews student and faculty mentor applications (the URSA Review Panel). Members of both groups may provide feedback on the operation of URSA as well as bring forward new ideas, initiatives, and concerns related to the URSA mission. In terms of the specific structure and primary responsibilities of these two groups, we have the following: (1) the Advisory Board consists of two faculty members from each academic college/school at UAF as well as staff from other units and meets at least once each semester to discuss policy initiatives and opportunities related to URSA; and (2) the Review Panel meets in accordance with the various due dates of the undergraduate student project, undergraduate student travel, mentor, and ITE requests for proposals and will primarily be responsible for reviewing the submitted proposals (note that there is no limit to the number of individuals that can participate on a review panel). However, both groups are essential for

disseminating URSA information and increasing the understanding of URSA funding policies and processes for all interested faculty, staff, and students at UAF.

4. **Continue to make UAF Research and Creative Activity Day (RCA Day; formerly known as UAF Research Day) the showcase event for undergraduate research and scholarly activity** at UAF. The 2023 Research and Creative Activity Day was able to revert back to an in-person event as in pre-COVID-19 pandemic years after a cancelled year (2020) and two years of virtual events (2021 and 2022). Plans for 2024 (RCA Day will take place on 04 April 2024) are similar to 2023, with an in-person event planned for the Wood Center. The UAF administration, as well as the UA President and local members of the UA Board of Regents and possibly interior Alaska member of the state legislature, should be notified early during the fall 2023 semester to save the date for 2024 RCA Day so that they can attend the event. We will continue to expand RCA Day to include more than just traditional research and scholarly activity posters, but also to include other forms of visual and interactive displays more broadly. This was accomplished at the 2023 event Day and was well received; as a result, expanding these types of displays will diversify and enhance research day at future events. An important consideration is how to make these types of events more commonplace and prominent. Finally, we will collect video footage and recorded interviews from RCA Day so that we can create an URSA video to better promote and market the event to UAF administration, faculty, staff, students, and associated stakeholders.
5. **Explore opportunities to expand URSA funding initiatives**, which will include developing a mechanism for undergraduate research and creative activity at rural UAF campuses, expanding funding availability for undergraduate student grants and consideration of the development of separate URSA-supported capstone, and community-based learning programs. In AY2022-2023, URSA created the Internship Award RFP which funded 6 students in its inaugural year. An additional initiative involving the UA Foundation is ongoing discussions to identify additional funding via private donors as funding availability continues to decline during the current UAF budget crisis.
6. **Increase the number of students enrolled in URSA-sponsored courses:** URSA 388 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship I, URSA 488 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship II, and MRAP (Museum Research Apprenticeship Program) 288 and 488. Historically, enrollment in these courses has been low (5-20 students per year), which is in large part due to a general lack of awareness that these opportunities exist. There is tremendous opportunity here to have more students participate in these courses, particularly for academic programs that do not have their own upper-division research/creative scholarship focused courses. There is also a need to develop more tuition-generating courses taught by URSA related to research design and methods of inquiry.
7. **Provide assistance for undergraduate students** to help them prepare for research and scholarly projects at UAF, which will include how to identify project ideas and mentors, write competitive proposals, and prepare posters for presentation purposes. This year, URSA led 6 student-focused seminars: 4 introductory URSA presentations, 1 proposal development presentation, and 1 poster development presentation.
8. **Enhance the student-mentor experience** at UAF by developing and adopting guidelines, policies, and expectations for both students and mentors. This year URSA developed of a mentee-mentor contract (to begin use with the AY2023-2024 awards) which clearly lists expectations for both individuals (the student and mentor) engaged in research and creative activities. A mentor development workshop was held via Zoom in both the Fall and Spring semesters and allowed current and prospective mentors the opportunity to ask questions and receive feedback on mentoring practices that have and have not worked for them. A future outcome of hosting this workshop/panel long-term would be a “best practices” document that URSA can then provide to faculty mentors for guiding their mentoring experience. Another aspect of enhancing the student-mentor experience will be to continue to solicit feedback from students regarding interactions/experiences with their mentor and from mentors regarding their interactions/experiences with their student(s). This feedback will be used to help URSA identify and address potential problem areas as well as highlight positive aspects of the student-mentor relationship.
9. **Continue to assess the impact and outcomes** associated with URSA relative to student’s success at UAF. Although URSA has been in place since 2012, a comprehensive outcomes assessment had not been completed on this program. Since 2018, the Director and Coordinator of URSA have examined metrics used by undergraduate research programs at other universities to identify the appropriate measures for measuring URSA outcomes. Both individuals also attended the 2018 Biennial Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) Conference in Arlington, Virginia, which had a two-and-a-half-day series of sessions on assessing student outcomes in undergraduate research programs. Based on the information learned at that conference, URSA personnel implemented an outcomes assessment to assess the annual Research and Creative Activity (RCA) Day event.

Table 1. The number of URSA applications (student project, student travel, internship, mentoring, CEL, ITE, and the supplies and services award combined), awards, and awarded dollars for each college/school for AY2022-2023. The dollar amount awarded also includes awards to students for UAF Research and Creative Activity Day poster presentations.

College/School	Number of Applications	Number of Awards	Dollar Amount Awarded
CBSM	5	1	\$6,000
CEM	21	13	\$55,352
CFOS	21	12	\$46,452
CLA	45	27	\$95,758
CNSM	43	23	\$82,341
CRCO	3	2	\$10,941
CTC	2	2	\$5,981
DGS	3	2	\$6,064
SOE	1	0	\$0
Museum	4	2	\$15,007
Office of Sustainability	3	1	\$500
Totals	151	85	\$324,396

Table 2. The number of URSA applications (Apps), awards (Awd), and total dollar amount awarded (Dollar Amt.) by award type for each college/school and department/unit within each college/school for AY2022-2023.

College/ School	Department/ Unit	Student Project			Student Travel			Internship			Mentoring			CEL			ITE			Supply & Service			RCA Day		
		Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts
CEM	Alaska Center for Energy and Power	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$252
	Civil, Geo. & Env.	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,556	0	0	\$0
	Comp. Sci.	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Electrical Eng.	1	1	\$5,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	0	\$0
	INE	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$8,300	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$150
	Mechanical	2	1	\$6,000	1	1	\$4,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$1,094	1	0	\$0
	Mining & Geo.	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Petroleum	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	1	1	\$6,000	0	0	\$0	2	2	\$10,000	2	2	\$10,000	0	0	\$0
	Water & Env. Res. Center	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CFOS	Fisheries	6	5	\$16,947	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	2	\$16,118	0	0	\$0	3	2	\$9,987	0	0	\$0	7	2	\$400
	Marine Biology	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Oceanography	1	1	\$3,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0
CLA	AK Native Languages	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Anthropology	2	2	\$5,948	1	1	\$2,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$3,449	2	0	\$0	2	2	\$400
	Art	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	3	3	\$13,027	1	0	\$0	1	0	\$0
	Comm. & Journalism	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$6,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	English	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$6,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	2	\$6,880	1	0	\$0
	Foreign Language	0	0	\$0	4	4	\$9,062	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	6	0	\$0
	History	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Interdisciplinary Studies	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	2	\$12,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Justice	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	2	\$12,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Linguistics	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Music	1	0	\$0	2	2	\$3,900	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0

	Northern Studies	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Philosophy	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Political Sci.	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Psychology	3	1	\$3,625	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0
	Social Work	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,467	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Theater & Film	1	0	\$0	1	1	\$2,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CNSM	Atmospheric Science	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Bio. & Wildlife	2	2	\$4,685	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	0	\$0
	Chem. & Biochem.	6	4	\$17,920	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,000	1	1	\$5,000	6	0	\$0
	Geosciences	1	1	\$3,890	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,970	0	0	\$0
	GI	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$3,230	0	0	\$0
	IAB	3	1	\$3,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,020	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$3,754	2	2	\$9,885	4	2	\$400
	IANRE	2	2	\$5,996	1	1	\$1,630	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0
	IARC	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$3,059	0	0	\$0
	Math & Stats.	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,902	0	0	\$0	2	0	\$0
	Physics	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Vet Med	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CRCD	AK Native Studies	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Bristol Bay Campus	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,941	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	NW Campus	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	1	\$5,000	0	0	\$0
	Sciences	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CTC	Process Tech	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Early Childhood Education	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$1,100	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Culinary Arts & Hospitality	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,881	0	0	\$0
	Bunnell House	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
DGS	Faculty Development	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0

	Student Support Services	1	1	\$1,900	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,164	0	0	\$0
	University Relations	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
SOE	Education	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CBSM	Accounting	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Bus. Admin.	2	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Economics	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Finance	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
	Homeland Security	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$6,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
MUSEUM	Entomology	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$10,007	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0
	Earth Sciences	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,000	1	0	\$0
Other	Office of Sustainability	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$500	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0

Table 3. The number of URSA applications (AP), awards (AW), and dollar amount (DA) for each college/school by awards type for AY2022-2023.

College/ School	Student Project			Student Travel			Internship			Mentoring			ITE			Research & Creative Activity Day			Community Engaged Learning			Supplies & Services		
	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA
CBSM	2	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	3	1	\$6,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CEM	5	2	\$11,000	1	1	\$4,000	1	0	\$0	3	2	\$14,300	2	2	\$10,000	5	2	\$402	0	0	\$0	4	4	\$15,650
CFOS	8	6	\$19,947	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	2	\$16,118	3	2	\$9,987	8	2	\$400	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CLA	7	3	\$9,573	8	8	\$16,962	3	3	\$18,000	1	1	\$6,000	6	6	\$25,943	11	2	\$400	0	0	\$0	7	2	\$6,880
CNSM	14	9	\$31,601	1	1	\$1,630	0	0	\$0	2	1	\$5,020	3	3	\$13,656	15	2	\$400	0	0	\$0	7	6	\$26,144
CRCD	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,941	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	1	\$5,000
CTC	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$1,100	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,881
DGS	1	1	\$1,900	0	0	\$0	2	2	\$12,000	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,164
SOE	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
MUSEUM	1	1	\$3,890	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$10,007	0	0	\$0	2	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,000
Sustainability	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	1	1	\$500	0	0	\$0

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