



## UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH & SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

*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	220	339	16	575
AY2013	205	318	54	577
AY2014	205	320	35	560
AY2015	218	328	45	591
AY2016	176	299	31	506
AY2017	249	373	29	651
AY2018	247	315	31	593
AY2019	232	294	36	562
AY2020	230	283	25	538
AY2021	216	233	37	486
AY2022	196	207	48	451
AY2023	161	233	39	433
AY2024	160	213	45	418

#### 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
AY2024	49 awards ***	\$184,930

\*Limited Travel Awards were offered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

\*\* Internship Awards were added in AY2023.

\*\*\*AY2024 includes student-awarded CEL award and the new Climate RFP awardees.

#### 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
AY2024	15 awards	\$78,780

#### 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
AY2024	19 awards	\$78,506

**University of Alaska Fairbanks**  
**Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA)**  
**Annual Report AY 2023-2024**

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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 Vice Provost and Dean of the Division of Exploratory Studies and Academic Success, continues as the URSA Director.
  - b. Erin Kirchner became the URSA Coordinator & Assistant Director in October 2023. This remains a 12-months and full-time position.
  - c. BreAnna Smith, Biology & Wildlife undergraduate student, was hired as URSA's inaugural Student Ambassador. Her role, part-time at an average of 10 hours per week, assists the Coordinator & Assistant Director with promotion and student outreach goals.
  - d. The URSA Advisory Board was expanded to include the following UAF faculty and staff: Amanda Langhorst and Kimberly McGinnis from the College of Business and Security Management (CBSM), Sunwoo Kim and Sveta Stuefer from the College of Engineering and Mines (CEM), Ana Aguilar-Islas and Peter Westley from the College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (CFOS), Anshul Pandya and Claudia Ihl from the College of Rural and Community Development (CIS- formerly CRCD), Neall Pogue and Charles Mason from the College of Liberal Arts (CLA), Steffi Ickert-Bond and David Valentine from the College of Natural Science and Mathematics (CNSM), Brian Ellingson from the Community & Technical College (CTC), Brooke Freeburg and Michael Angaiak from the School of Education (SOE), Jennifer Tilbury as the Associate Vice Provost of Student Success, Misti Hopkins from Student Support Services (SSS), Iris Cato from the Academic Advising Center, and John Greenfield from Military and Veteran Services.
  - e. The URSA Review Panel included the following UAF individuals: Ana Aguilar-Islas, Kelechukwu Alu, Tav Ammu, Jungho Baek, Samantha Botz, Caroline Colquhoun, Shawn Crimmins, Wendy Croskrey, Curry Cunningham, LaVerne Demientieff, Eugenie Euskirchen, Carol Gray, Ryan Henderson, Joe Holt, Daisy Huang, Falk Huettmann, Claudia Ihl, Zoe Jones, Jesse Kaczmariski, Thomas Kelly, Chandler Kemp, Ilana Kingsley, Cecile Lardon, Menghua Liu, Amy Lovecraft, Kimberly McGinnis, Natalie Monacci, Anshul Pandya, Jen Peterson, Rorik Peterson, Eve Ryan, Tara Shreve, Derek Sikes, Suzan South, Lisa Strecker, Renate Wackerbauer, Phil Wight, Sveta Yamin-Pasternak, and Simon Zwieback.
  - f. URSA completed an Undergraduate Research, Creative, and Scholarly Experience Survey in the Spring 2024. The purpose of the survey was to collect information on student motivations and satisfaction levels for undergraduate project work and mentorship to improve access to and support processes for students seeking experiential learning experiences in the future. Forty-three undergraduate students completed the full survey. Main findings from this survey include the following:
    - i. Students reported that their number one reason for not engaging to-date was limited time. This was closely followed by lack of financial support to pursue opportunities, and difficulty finding a mentor.
    - ii. Students indicated that their primary source of encouragement to engage in research and creative projects came from a known source (e.g., mentor, fellow student, etc.).
    - iii. The top three reported motivations for participation in a research or creative project were career-focused rather than personal, financial, or social motivators: Gaining knowledge or skills related to my major or career goals; Gaining expertise or confidence in my ability to work within my discipline/ field of study; Completing an experience I can include in my resume or curriculum vitae.
    - iv. Supportive mentoring relationships and satisfaction suggest successful project outcomes. 70% reported being very satisfied with their project mentor overall. Of the mentor satisfaction categories surveyed, students more highly reported satisfaction with those related to mentor-student engagement (e.g., ease of securing a mentor, timely communication, and mentor enthusiasm).
2. Funding Awards
  - a. The total amount of funding awarded by URSA in FY24 was \$397,681 (107 awards total).
  - b. A total of \$184,930 was allocated to students during AY2023-2024 for Undergraduate Student Project Awards (fall/spring/summer projects), Undergraduate Student Travel Awards, Internship Awards, Climate Change Project Awards, and Community-Engaged Learning Awards. All completed travel this academic term took place in-person, rather than virtual attendance.
  - c. A total of \$78,780 was allocated to mentor-led projects during AY2023-2024 for Mentor Awards and Student Belonging and Community Awards.
  - d. We gathered in person in the Wood Center Multilevel Lounge for the 2024 Research and Creative Activity Day, held April 4, 2024, and awarded \$2,852 between five Deans' Choice Awards, four Honorable Mention Awards, and two Attendance Door Prizes (\$500 each).
  - e. Funding for awards given out in FY24 were 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 (17 awards [27 applications] totaling \$14,953)

- ii. Summer Undergraduate Research Project Awards (9 awards [19 applications] totaling \$53,802)
    - iii. Climate Change Project Awards (2 awards [3 applications] totaling \$7,986)
    - iv. Undergraduate Student Travel Awards (9 awards [9 applications] totaling \$17,924)
    - v. Internship Awards (11 awards [15 applications] totaling \$42,078)
    - vi. Mentoring Awards (12 awards [15 applicants] totaling \$64,005)
    - vii. Community Engaged Learning Awards (1 award [3 applications] totaling \$4,781)
    - viii. Student Belonging & Community Awards (3 award [5 applications] totaling \$14,775)
  - f. Innovative Technology and Equipment (ITE) Awards (19 awards [27 applicants] totaling \$78,506). 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.
  - g. Due to unforeseen additional revenue late in the year, a one-time Supplies and Services Award was created, which funded 13 awards [23 applications], totaling \$52,613.
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. Five UAF students enrolled in URSA courses, and 3 students enrolled in MRAP (Museum Research Apprenticeship Program) courses during AY2023-2024 (see 5. Curriculum Development below).
  - c. Thirty-seven students (including groups) received URSA funding in support of research or creative scholarship during the fall, spring, and summer of AY2023-2024, and an additional 28-applicants submitted but did not receive funding (65 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 opportunities board. 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. Curriculum Development
- a. URSA (Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity) courses offered in AY2023-2024:
    - 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: 5 students).
  - b. MRAP (Museum Research Apprentice Program) courses offered in AY2023-2024:
    - i. MRAP 288 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship II (Instructors: Stefanie Ickert-Bond; Enrollment: 1 student).
    - ii. MRAP 488 Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship I (Instructors: Patrick Druckenmiller and Angela Linn; Enrollment: 2 students).
5. Research and Creative Activity Day
- a. The UAF Research and Creative Activity Day was held in-person in the Wood Center on April 4, 2024; a total of 77 UAF undergraduate students presented 44 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):
      - a. Dean's Choice Award: Shaina Atcherian, Aiyana Erhart, Marcelo Ketzler-Lopez, Elise Wood | *Yukon Harmony Veterinary Clinic Business Proposal*
    - ii. College of Engineering and Mines (CEM):
      - a. Dean's Choice Award: Margaret McCormick, Dakota Peterson-Thompson, Conor Sosebee | *Winterization Design for Outdoor Particulate Collection Technology*
      - b. Honorable Mention: Derek Dayan, Janet Felix, Evan Wells | *Venus Seismic Instrumentation*
    - iii. College of Fisheries and Ocean Science (CFOS):
      - a. Dean's Choice Award: Tony Blade | *Microplastic Presence in Pacific Walrus Tissues*
      - b. Honorable Mention: Isabelle Nicolier | *The Population Structure of Pacific Herring in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska using mtDNA*
    - iv. College of Indigenous Studies (CIS, formerly CRCD): No Entries

- v. College of Liberal Arts (CLA):
  - a. Dean's Choice Award: Marina Barbosa Santos | *Chena Townsite Repeat Photography*
  - b. Honorable Mention: Marina Gonzalez Mazo | *H&H: Art Exhibition*
- vi. College of Natural Science and Mathematics (CNSM):
  - a. Dean's Choice Award: Maura Grahek | *Functional Gene Abundance among Boreal Forest Sites*
  - b. Honorable Mention: Christian Bolton | *Effects of Hypoxia on Blood Osmolarity in Antarctic Fish Species*

6. Student Highlights:

- a. Marina Barbosa Santos (Interdisciplinary Student) received a Fall 2023 Student Project Award, under the mentorship of Justin Cramb and Ken Tape, to utilize repeat photography in support of archeological efforts at the Chena Townsite and to understand how the landscape has evolved since the town was abandoned. This project contributes to the preservation of history, public education, and our understanding of land use changes and can [be viewed on an interactive website](#).
- b. Marina Gonzales Mazo (Art Student) received a Spring 2024 Student Project Award in support of their BFA Thesis Exhibition titled, *H&h*. Bunnyson, a jewelry piece from the exhibition, was awarded CLA Honorable Mention at the 2024 Research and Creative Activity Day.
- c. Jodi Fouché (Biological Sciences Student) received both the Paul H. McCarthy Award, run through the Alaska Polar Regions Collection and Archive and promoted through URSA, as well as a Summer 2024 Student Project Award, mentored by Justin Cramb and Lisa Strecker, to research historical plant-use practice of Chena Townsite settlers and compare findings with ethnobotanical remains excavated during the 2024 Archaeology Field School.
- d. Beatrice Turley (Secondary Education & Music Student) received a Community-Engaged Learning Award, under the mentorship of Sean Dowgray, create a lesson plan that integrates the Alaskan public school standard geometry curriculum and percussion instruments to strengthen students' fundamental understanding of mathematical concepts. Throughout the award period Turley shared her curriculum as workshops and presentations with music education students on campus and through hands-on playing sessions with the Fairbanks Children's Museum, the Galena City School District, and the Nunamiut School in Anaktuvuk Pass.
- e. Logan Niemann (Fisheries & Fire Science student mentored by Lara Horstmann) and Jessie Skalisky (Wildlife Biology & Conservation student mentored by Katie Spellman) received the inaugural Climate Change Project Awards for their research focusing on microplastics in bowhead whale stomachs and invasive species post-wildfire respectively.
- f. In the second year of Internship Awards URSA funded 11 students to assume roles in Fairbanks and Juneau, AK, Monterey Bay, CA, San Diego, CA, Denver, CO, Hartford, CT, Evansville, IN, Topeka, KS, New Orleans, LA, and Mossel Bay, South Africa.

7. Mentor Highlights:

- a. Sasha Bitzer (CLA - Art) received Mentor Award funding to work with Ayona-Reily Dixon, undergraduate art student, and travel to glacial environments around Alaska to research and inform artwork that incorporates glaciers as a way of communicating human tendencies, values, and ways of living in cold, dark environments. [Cognitive Cryogenics](#), the exhibition featuring artwork from this collaborative project, will be featured in the UAF Fine Arts Gallery October 21 through November 1, 2024.
- b. Florian Hofmann (GI) received a Mentor Award to work with Ada Causey and Cori Patchkofsky, geoscience undergraduate students. Together, Hofmann, Causey, and Patchkofsky, worked through a holistic project encompassing all stages of the mineral dating process, from collecting rock samples in the field, through processing rocks and mineral separation, to making measurements with a mass spectrometer and calculating ages of volcanic eruptions around Alaska.
- c. Lauren Wilson (CNSM - Graduate Student) received funding in support of Xochitl Muñoz's, geoscience undergraduate student, research on small mammal fossils from the Late Cretaceous Prince Creek Formation on the North Slope of Alaska. Under their Mentor Award, Xochitl assisted in cleaning, preparing and packaging fossils, escorted fossils from the University of Alaska Museum of the North to the University of Colorado, Boulder for computed tomography (CT) scans, and then worked with Wilson to process data and create interpretable models for future academic publications.
- d. URSA awarded three projects in the inaugural cycle offering the Student Belonging and Community Awards for proposals focused on cultivating a culture of respect, connection, belonging, and community for UAF undergraduate students. Awarded projects included The SoBear Lounge (Julia Aikman and Amara Juneau), the GeoFORCE learning community (Justine Schmidt), and the Social Work Department (Retchenda George-Bettisworth and Charles Stark).

**University of Alaska Fairbanks**  
**Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA)**  
**AY 2023-2024 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 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 and project cataloging of URSA-sponsored research.** URSA students are currently tracked in-house year-by-year and in Banner over time using student attribute codes. Efforts this coming year will be made to create a comprehensive in-office database of URSA undergraduate students and mentors in preparation for new programmatic review processes to be instituted in AY25-26. In addition to establishing a maintainable database, URSA staff will also develop pre- and post-surveys to assess student learning outcomes.
3. The **URSA Advisory Board** will be discontinued in AY24-25 due to low participation to allow time to assess the need for this advisory group in the future.
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 2024 Research and Creative Activity Day was held in-person in the Wood Center Multilevel Lounge. 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 and 2024 events and was well received; as a result, expanding these types of displays will diversify and enhance research day at future events. Given the increase in event participation and public attendance, the 2025 RCA Day event will be held in a larger event space on campus. Changes to event schedule will also be instituted (e.g., extending the presentation session from 2-3 hours, eliminating the break between presentations and the reception, discontinuing the Dean's Choice Awards, and public remarks by the URSA Director and UAF leadership) based on feedback from participants. 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 AY2023-2024, URSA created the Student Belonging & Community Award RFP, which funded 3 mentor-led projects, and the Climate Change Project Award RFP, which funded 2 student projects, in their inaugural year. In response to feedback from Mentor Awardees, the Mentor Award will be split into two cycles in AY24-25 (Spring 2025 for \$3,000 and Summer 2025 for \$6,000), to better align the AY25-26 cycle with Mentor funding needs. The AY25-26 award schedule will feature a combined Fall and Spring award for \$6,000 and a Summer award for \$6,000.

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. In the coming year, the URSA team will explore opportunities to create courses and/or a minor rooted in ways of knowing and/or undergraduate research and creative scholarship.
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 4 student-focused seminars: 2 introductory URSA presentations, 1 proposal development presentation, and 1 poster development presentation. URSA also initiated a connection with the UAF Writing Center to identify 2 proposal-focused tutors available to review project proposals.
8. **Enhance the student-mentor experience** at UAF by developing and adopting guidelines, policies, and expectations for both students and mentors. This year URSA continued to require the Mentor-Mentee Expectation form from each awarded project. As a result of connections made at the 2024 CUR Conference, a primary goal for AY2024-2025 will include the development of a training program for mentors of undergraduate students (accessible to all levels of mentors and from all disciplines). A future outcome in conjunction with hosting this training would be a “best practices” document that URSA can then provide to mentors to guide their future mentoring experiences. 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. There is a need develop measurable learning outcomes and to develop measures of these outcomes, both for URSA overall as well as RCA Day..



**Table 1.** The number of URSA applications (student project, student travel, internship, mentoring, CEL, SBC, CCP, ITE, and the supplies and services award combined), awards, and awarded dollars for each college/school for AY2023-2024. The dollar amount awarded also includes awards to students for UAF Research and Creative Activity Day presentations.

College/School	Number of Applications	Number of Awards	Dollar Amount Awarded
ACEP	1	1	\$1,545
CBSM	3	3	\$10,078
CEM	22	12	\$47,258
CFOS	34	20	\$56,723
CIS *Formerly CRCD	5	3	\$16,920
CLA	44	25	\$90,192
CNSM	39	14	\$53,702
CTC	1	1	\$5,000
DEXSAS	2	2	\$6,628
GI	8	6	\$22,988
IAB	19	13	\$57,811
IARC	4	1	\$5,910
SOE	1	1	\$1,198
UAMN	4	4	\$16,953
Wood Center	3	1	\$4,775
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>\$397,681</b>



**Table 2.** The number of URSA applications (Apps), awards (Awds), and total dollar amount awarded (Dollar Amt.) by award type for each college/school and department/unit within each college/school for AY2023-2024.

College/ School	Department/ Unit	Student Project			Student Travel			Internship			Mentoring			CEL		
		Apps	Awds	Dollar Amt.	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amt.	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amt.	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amt.	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amt.
ACEP	Alaska Center for Energy and Power				1	1	\$1,545									
CBSM	Homeland Security and Emergency Management							1	1	\$5,828						
	Native Alaskan Business Leaders				1	1	\$4,000									
CEM	Civil, Geological, & Environmental Engineering															
	Electrical & Computer Engineering	1	1	\$4,820				1	1	\$5,000						
	Makerspace															
	Mechanical Engineering	8	4	\$20,786												
	Mining & Mineral Engineering	1	1	\$1,804												
CTOS	AKCFWRU															
	Fisheries	4	2	\$5,667	1	1	\$1,096	5	4	\$9,250	2	2	\$11,700			
	Marine Biology	3	2	\$8,223							1	0	\$0			
	Oceanography	1	1	\$6,000												
CIS	Alaska Native Language Center															
*formerly CRCDD*	Interior Alaska Campus										1	0	\$0			
	Kuskokwim Campus	1	1	\$5,972												
	Northwest Campus										1	1	\$6,000			
CLA	Anthropology	2	1	\$6,000												
	Art	1	1	\$2,692							1	1	\$5,712			
	CLA Dean's Office															
	English	1	0	\$0										1	0	\$0
	Foreign Language & Literature				1	1	\$3,052									
	Justice							1	1	\$3,000						
	Linguistics Program	1	1	\$3,000	1	1	\$1,259									
	Music	1	0	\$0							1	1	\$4,624	1	1	\$4,781
	Political Science							1	1	\$3,000						
	Psychology	1	0	\$0												
	Science & Environmental Journalism															
	Social Work															
	Theater & Film							1	0	\$0						
CNSM	Biology & Wildlife							4	2	\$12,000						
	Center for One Health (*now with CIS)															
	Chemistry & Biochemistry	2	1	\$6,000												
	GEOForce/ Geo-Learning Community															
	Geoscience	2	1	\$5,928				1	1	\$4,000						
	Mathematics & Statistics	1	0	\$0												
	Natural Resources & Environment	1	1	\$2,499												
	Physics	1	0	\$0												
CTC	Culinary Arts & Hospitality															
DEXSAS	Honors College				1	1	\$1,660									
GI	GI	3	2	\$5,925	1	1	\$1,312				1	1	\$5,975			
IAB	IAB	7	3	\$12,000	1	1	\$2,000				5	5	\$23,994			
IARC	IARC	1	1	\$5,910							1	0	\$0	1	0	\$0
SOE	Education															
UAMN	University of Alaska Museum of the North	2	2	\$8,953	1	1	\$2,000				1	1	\$6,000			
Wood Center	Nanook Diversity & Action Center															
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$112,179</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$17,924</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$42,078</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$64,005</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$4,781</b>

Table 2. Continued.

College/ School	Department/ Unit	SR&C			Climate Change Project			ITE			Supply&Service			RCA Day			
		Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Apps	Awds	Dollar Amts	Entries	Students	Awds	Dollar Amts
ACEP	Alaska Center for Energy and Power																
CBSM	Homeland Security and Emergency Management																
	Native Alaskan Business Leaders													1	3	1	\$250
CEM	Civil, Geological, & Environmental Engineering										1	0	\$0				
	Electrical & Computer Engineering							2	2	\$9,446				1	4	0	\$0
	Makerspace							2	1	\$5,000							
	Mechanical Engineering													4	11	2	\$402
	Mining & Mineral Engineering													1	1	0	\$0
CFOS	AKCFWRU							2	1	\$3,186							
	Fisheries										1	1	\$2,500	9	12	2	\$650
	Marine Biology				1	1	\$3,000				1	0	\$0	1	1	1	\$250
	Oceanography							1	1	\$797	1	1	\$4,404				
CIS	Alaska Native Language Center							1	1	\$4,948							
*formerly CRCD*	Interior Alaska Campus																
	Kuskokwim Campus																
	Northwest Campus										1	0	\$0				
CLA	Anthropology							1	1	\$1,981	1	1	\$4,975	1	1	1	\$250
	Art							2	2	\$9,816	1	1	\$4,900	2	2	1	\$150
	CLA Dean's Office										2	0	\$0				
	English										3	1	\$1,810				
	Foreign Language & Literature													1	7	0	\$0
	Justice																
	Linguistics Program																
	Music							1	1	\$5,000	1	0	\$0	2	8	0	\$0
	Political Science				1	0	\$0										
	Psychology							1	1	\$4,800							
	Science & Environmental Journalism							1	1	\$5,000							
	Social Work	1	1	\$5,000				1	0	\$0				1	1	0	\$0
	Theater & Film							1	1	\$5,000	3	2	\$4,390				
CNSM	Biology & Wildlife							5	3	\$12,375				10	13	3	\$900
	Center for One Health (*now with CIS)							1	0	\$0							
	Chemistry & Biochemistry													4	4	0	\$0
	GEOForce/ Geo-Learning Community	1	1	\$5,000										1	2	0	\$0
	Geosciences													3	4	0	\$0
	Mathematics & Statistics																
	Natural Resources & Environment													1	1	0	\$0
	Physics							1	1	\$5,000							
CTC	Culinary Arts & Hospitality										1	1	\$5,000				
DEXSAS	Honors College				1	1	\$4,968										
GI	GI	1	0	\$0				1	1	\$4,959	1	1	\$4,817				
IAB	IAB							2	0	\$0	4	4	\$19,817				
IARC	IARC										1	0	\$0				
SOE	Education							1	1	\$1,198							
UAMN	University of Alaska Museum of the North																
Wood Center	Nanook Diversity & Action Center	2	1	\$4,775										1	1	0	\$0
	TOTALS	5	3	\$14,775	3	2	\$7,968	27	19	\$78,506	23	13	\$52,613	44	76	11	\$2,852

**Table 3.** The number of URSA applications (AP), awards (AW), and dollar amount (DA) for each college/school by awards type for AY2023-2024.

College/ School	Student Project			Student Travel			Internship			Mentoring			Community-Engaged Learning			Student Belonging & Community			Climate Change Projects			Research & Creative Activity Day			ITE			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	AP	AW	DA	AP	AW	DA
ACEP	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$1,545	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CBSM	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,000	1	1	\$5,828	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$250	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
CEM	10	6	\$27,410	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	6	2	\$402	4	2	\$14,446	1	0	\$0
CTOS	8	5	\$10,800	1	1	\$1,066	5	4	\$9,250	3	2	\$11,700	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$3,000	10	3	\$900	3	2	\$3,983	3	2	\$6,504
CIS	1	1	\$5,972	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	1	\$6,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,948	1	0	\$0
*Formerly CRCID																														
CLA	7	3	\$11,692	2	2	\$4,311	3	2	\$6,000	2	2	\$10,336	2	1	\$4,781	1	1	\$5,000	1	0	\$0	7	2	\$400	8	7	\$31,597	11	8	\$16,075
CNSM	7	3	\$14,427	0	0	\$0	5	3	\$16,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,000	0	0	\$0	19	3	\$900	7	4	\$17,375	0	0	\$0
CTC	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,000
DEKSAS	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$1,660	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,968	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
GI	1	2	\$5,925	1	1	\$1,312	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$5,975	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$4,959	1	1	\$4,817
IAB	7	3	\$12,000	1	1	\$2,000	0	0	\$0	5	5	\$23,994	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	0	\$0	4	4	\$19,817
IARC	1	1	\$5,910	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1			1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0
SOR	0	\$0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$1,198	0	0	\$0
UAMN	2	2	\$8,953	1	1	\$2,000	0	0	\$0	1	1	\$6,000	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
Wood Center	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	2	1	\$4,775	0	0	\$0	1	0	\$0	0	0	\$0	0	0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>\$112,179</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>\$17,924</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$42,078</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$64,005</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$4,781</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>\$14,775</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>\$7,968</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$2,852</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$78,506</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>\$52,613</b>

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