



**Community College URE Summit
November 20-22, 2019
Omni Shoreham Hotel
Washington, DC**

Purpose, Outcomes, and URE Definition Statement

PURPOSE: The summit is focused on the role of community colleges in building, implementing, and sustaining undergraduate research experiences (UREs) in STEM education and workforce preparation. The event is designed to highlight community college leadership in STEM by raising awareness of the innovative use of UREs as an effective and proven strategy for career skills development, student retention, and academic success.

OUTCOMES: The summit is intended to assist community colleges, NSF, federal agencies, and other stakeholders in accelerating the value and impact of community colleges in STEM workforce development—through examining and promoting innovation and UREs—and contributing to a community of practice to advance student learning, success, persistence, and STEM completion.

By assembling more than 120 thought leaders who represent diverse examples of undergraduate research experiences (UREs) from across STEM disciplines, the summit is designed to foster the sharing of proven practices and lessons learned; and to enable participants to think broadly about research as a technique that can be applied to a variety of models and settings to advance skills development and prepare students for the workforce. Attendees consist primarily of community college practitioners, with additional stakeholders representing four-year universities, business/industry, nonprofits, and government.

The summit will result in a proceedings report, which will be disseminated nationally, with the objective of broadening community college participation in UREs.

URE DEFINITION: The summit is employing a broad definition of UREs to provide for a supportive venue to exchange proven practices and lessons learned, and to offer substantive discussion designed to address areas of significance to developing, implementing, scaling, and sustaining UREs at community colleges.

Undergraduate research experiences (UREs) use the scientific method and/or the engineering design process to promote student learning by investigating a problem where the solution is unknown to students or faculty. UREs provide students with essential workplace and life-long learning skills such as collaboration, problem solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, and communication.

Examples of UREs to be discussed in the context of the Community College URE Summit include: course-based research; mentored research as part of a larger project, such as REUS; student centered research such as independent studies and honors projects; employer-based research such as internships, co-ops, and apprenticeships; and STEM design challenges and competitions.