



2018-2019 by the Numbers:

- Over **406 student participants**, across 34 academic departments and programs
- Over **159 students presenting at conferences**
- **225 projects** showcased at **SOURCE 2019**

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Undergraduate Research Update

Volume 4

Summer 2019

Record Participation in Research, Creative Activity during 2018-2019

How does social media use affect one's mental health? What is the best way to tax e-commerce? How is microplastics pollution affecting the Catawba River?

These are just three questions posed by Winthrop undergraduates this year. In total, 406 students were engaged in a record 388 creative and research projects captured in our annual compilation, *Undergraduate Scholarship and Creative Activity 2019* (available online).

In addition to the unprecedented number of student projects (and involvement

of 176 Winthrop faculty and staff mentors), 2018-2019 saw expanded participation from across campus, with representation from at



The 2019 compilation of student work, available on the UR webpage

least 34 academic departments and programs. Record numbers also participated in our Fifth Annual Showcase of Undergradu-

ate Research and Creative Endeavors (**SOURCE**) in April, including many of the 159-plus students who presented or performed their work at professional conferences.

Whether they grew from coursework, provided focus for Honors theses, or contributed to ongoing, grant-funded studies, these projects provided students with key hands-on experiences in their fields, giving each an important competitive edge in preparing for life after Winthrop. We look forward to celebrating their continued success!

Students, Mentors Recognized for Award-Winning Work

The SOURCE Awards Celebration on April 12 honored **74 students** who were recognized for outstanding research or creative work. These accolades included awards for students' writing, conference presentations and performances, juried artwork,

and, for the first time, adjudicated SOURCE presentations.

The College of Arts and Sciences also announced this year's Caskey Student Scholars — **Cale Gaster**, **Lauren Leonard**, and **Sydney Strother** — and

the Outstanding Faculty Mentors, **Drs. Kristen and Zach Abernathy**.

Later in April, **Joey Jennings** received a prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the NSF, one of only 3 sociology awards nationwide!

Busy Summer for Student Research

What did you do this summer? More than **75 students** pursued research on campus as part of the McNair Scholars Program, the Winthrop Initiative for STEM Educators (WISE) and the Winthrop Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE).

Twelve McNair Scholars completed the Summer Research Experience on campus. Select-

ed via a competitive application process, Scholars receive training and support toward Ph.D.-level study in their fields of interest. (**Applications for 2019-2020** will be available soon, due in October.)

Eleven WISE Summer Interns from Winthrop and York Tech pursued research related to water quality and visited middle- and high-school classrooms.

Fifty-five students took part in the 14th annual SURE Program, pursuing research in biology, chemistry, physics, geology, and math. They will present posters on their work on **Friday, October 4**. All are welcome!



Participants in SURE 2019

You, Too, Can Do Undergraduate Research!

Want to have your research or creative work included in the next newsletter? Not sure how to get started? Here are a few answers to FAQs. . . .

Who can do undergraduate research (UR)? **Every undergraduate** at Winthrop, **in every academic major**, can pursue UR—a project that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the

student's field. While many students pursue UR as juniors or seniors, others begin as early as the freshman year.

How do I get started? **Talk to faculty** and students in your major or area(s) of interest. You may be required to complete UR projects in your major coursework (Research Methods, Thesis courses, etc.). You

may also have opportunities to pursue extra-curricular projects, either paid or unpaid. Faculty (including your academic advisor) will be able to give you a sense of those options. Then, find out about the research or creative interests of potential faculty mentors—check the WU website to start—and chat with candidates to find a good fit. At Winthrop, **motivated researchers will find enthusiastic mentors.**

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

October 1, 2019	Requests for Fall 2019 student travel support due
October 4	SURE Poster Session, Richardson Ballroom (DIGS)
February 4, 2020	Requests for Spring 2020 student travel support due
March 4	Submissions due for <i>Undergraduate Scholarship and Creative Activity 2020</i> and SOURCE 2020 (Window opens 11/1/19)
March 25-28	NCUR 2020, Montana State U. (Abstracts due 12/6/19)
April 24	SOURCE 2020



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