Call for Nominations for Student Representatives from MU

The MU Office of Undergraduate Research is seeking nominations for undergraduates to share their university research/scholarly experiences with state lawmakers in Jefferson City for the UM System Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol in March 2016. The deadline for University of Missouri (MU) nominees is Monday, November 2, 2015.

Last year’s event showcased the work of 30 MU students to Missouri legislators. The 2016 event will continue to be a system-wide activity with space for 50-60 undergraduates from all four campuses of the UM system.

The purpose of this event is to demonstrate the unique opportunities undergraduate students have to participate with faculty in research at the University of Missouri to lawmakers in Jefferson City. Many lawmakers do not differentiate between regional colleges and public research universities, and we hope that Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol will showcase our undergraduate researchers and help make this distinction. We also utilize this event to underscore the role of higher education in developing well-informed citizens and preparing a workforce with the necessary skills to further the economic growth of the state.

The Office of Undergraduate Research is seeking undergraduates who have been significantly involved in the research/scholarly enterprise of the university either with their own project or through meaningful involvement with an ongoing faculty project. To qualify for participation in this event, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be degree-seeking undergraduates at MU during the 2015-2016 Academic Year.
- Students should be residents of Missouri (or list themselves as residents of Columbia, Missouri).
- Research must be completed under the guidance of an MU faculty member.
- Scholarly projects must represent a significant investment of time by the student outside of normal course requirements but may be a class project.
- Research projects must follow the scholarly methodology of the appropriate academic discipline.
- The research project must be of sufficient quality to be presented at a professional academic meeting.
- Students must have previously presented their completed research project in a poster or visual format at a public MU event (e.g., the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievements Forum) or a regional, national, or international professional conference by November 2, 2015.
We seek students from a broad range of disciplines. We are especially interested in projects that relate to the economic development of Missouri and issues important to the state legislature (e.g., education, health, agriculture, biotechnology, transportation and infrastructure, social services, economic development). Presentations that include visual demonstrations or displays beyond the typical poster are also encouraged. Successful nominees should be able to convey their experience and enthusiasm to state representatives, senators, and other state officials in a poster session.

Selection of Undergraduate Representatives will be based on geographical distribution across the state, relevance of the project to the state, quality of the project, prior experience of the student, and distribution among the four campuses.

**Students selected to serve as Undergraduate Research Representatives will attend several meetings and workshops in preparation for the event.** Workshop topics will include presentation skills, how the state legislature works, how to meet and greet lawmakers, and other protocol. Students will also revise their poster and abstract for a lay audience and to prepare a brief presentation on their work suitable for delivering the “take home message” in a few minutes. Students will be asked to turn in the first draft of their revised abstracts in early to mid-January (during the winter break). Posters will be printed in February, and students will participate in a **mandatory** practice session in late February.

Students will also communicate with their Senator and Representative about the event in advance and will visit those lawmakers during their trip to the capitol in March. Parents of participants will be invited by the University of Missouri President to attend the event in Jefferson City. Students will have the opportunity to tour the state capitol and to have their photo taken with their local lawmakers to send to their hometown newspaper. Transportation to and from Jefferson City will be provided, along with a box lunch.

Note: Presenting at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol is a prerequisite to applying to represent MU for Posters on the Hill (POH) sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research in Washington D.C. for Spring 2017. Students who wish to submit an application for POH 2017 must participate in the state capitol event in March 2016.

Faculty nominators are encouraged to request the assistance of their nominee in completing the nomination form. For additional information or questions, please contact Michael Cohen (CohenME@missouri.edu) in the MU Office of Undergraduate Research (573-882-4818, 150b Bond Life Sciences Center).

Applications from the Columbia Campus are due to the Office of Undergraduate Research (150 Life Sciences Center or ugr@missouri.edu) by **Monday, November 2, 2015 by 5:00 pm.**
University of Missouri System Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol
Undergraduate Research Representative
Nomination Form

Please PRINT!

A. Faculty Mentor/Nominator Information
Name ____________________________________________
Department ______________________________________
Campus Address ___________________________________
E-mail Address ____________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

B. Undergraduate Researcher/Nominee Information
Name ____________________________________________
Pawprint __________________________________________
Major ____________________________________________
Year in School ____________________________________
Local Address/Zip __________________________________
MU E-mail Address __________________________________
Local Phone Number __________________________________
__________________________________________________

Parent’s full name and full Address/Permanent Residence in Missouri (include street #, zip code, AND county)
[This is the address the student’s parents/guardians use to register to vote in Missouri]

Name(s) __________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
__________________________________________________
__________________________________________________

High School from which you graduated __________________________
High School City __________________ County __________ State __________

My Missouri Senatorial District is __ __ __. My Missouri House District is __ __ __.
Go to http://www.senate.mo.gov/llookup/leg_lookup.aspx to find your districts. You must enter your zip
code + 4 number. Don’t know your + 4 number? There is a link to the US Postal Service at this
web site to find out that information too!
C. Project Information

Research Project Title
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
Funding Source(s) for project – please also indicate if you received a student stipend to work on the project
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
Briefly explain, in simple terms, why this project is important and/or is relevant to the state of Missouri.
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________

D. Meeting or conference where this project was/will be presented

Conference Name
__________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________
Location
____________________________________
Date
____________________________________

Note: Projects must be presented at least once prior to November 2, 2015 to be considered for selection.

• Please attach an abstract and an 8.5” x 11” sized poster of this project.
• Faculty mentors should attach a brief letter of recommendation, addressing the student’s degree of enthusiasm for the project, his/her educational experience at the University, prior presentation experience, his/her ability to communicate with others outside their field of study, and his/her ability to represent the University.

Please return this form with an abstract and recommendation letter to:
Michael Cohen
Office of Undergraduate Research
150b Bond Life Sciences Center

*Faculty mentors may e-mail letters of recommendation to Michael Cohen at CohenME@missouri.edu
Deadline: Monday, November 2, 2015