Call for Nominations for Student Representatives from MU

The 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 this March. The deadline for University of Missouri nominees is Friday, November 4, 2016.

Last year’s event showcased the work of 20 MU students to Missouri legislators. The event will continue to be a system-wide activity with space for 40-50 undergraduates from all four campuses of the UM system.

The purpose of this event is to demonstrate to lawmakers in Jefferson City the unique opportunities undergraduate students have to participate with faculty in research at the University of Missouri. Many lawmakers do not differentiate between regional colleges and public research universities, this opportunity and helps make this distinction. This event underscores how higher education develops educated citizens and prepares a workforce with skills to further the economic growth of the state.

We seek undergraduates who are significantly involved in the research enterprise of the university either with their own project or through meaningful involvement with an ongoing faculty project. To qualify, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be undergraduates at MU during the 2016-2017 Academic Year.
- Students should be residents of Missouri (or reside in Columbia).
- Research must be completed under the guidance of an MU faculty member.
- Research projects must represent a significant investment of time by the student outside of normal course requirements and class projects.
- Research projects must follow appropriate methodology of the discipline.
- The project must be of sufficient quality to be presented at a professional meeting.
- Students must have previously presented their completed research project in a poster format at a public MU event (e.g., the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievements Forum) or a professional conference by the application deadline.

Successful nominees should be able to convey their experience and enthusiasm to state officials in a poster session. We seek students from a broad range of disciplines, especially 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). Presentations that include demonstrations or 3D displays beyond a poster are encouraged.
Selection of Undergraduate Representatives will be based on geographical distribution across the state, relevance of the project to the state, quality of the project, and distribution among the four campuses.

Students selected to serve as Undergraduate Research Representatives must attend several workshops and complete assignments in preparation for the event. Workshop topics include presentation skills, how the state legislature works, how to meet and greet lawmakers, and protocol. Students will revise their poster, abstract, and talking points for a lay audience to deliver the “take home message” they want to convey to lawmakers. Students will turn in the first draft of revised abstracts mid-January, and will participate in a practice session in late February.

Students will also communicate with their Senator and Representative about the event by mail and will visit them during their trip to the capitol. Parents of participants are 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. Letters explaining the student’s absence from class for the event will be sent to appropriate instructors upon request.

Note: Presenting at the Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol is a prerequisite to apply for Posters on the Hill (POH) sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research in Washington D.C. for Spring 2018.

Faculty nominators are encouraged to request the assistance of their nominee in completing this form. For additional information or questions, please contact the MU Office of Undergraduate Research (573-882-5979, 150 Bond Life Sciences Center).

Applications are due to the Office of Undergraduate Research (150 Life Sciences Center or ugr@missouri.edu) by Friday, November 4, 2016 by 5:00 pm.
MU Application
UM System Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol
A. Spring 2017
Jefferson City, MO

MU Deadline: November 4, 2016

Please Print or Type

B. A. Faculty Mentor/Nominator Information
Name ________________________________
Department ________________________________
Campus Address ________________________________
E-mail ________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
Campus Phone ________________________________

B. Undergraduate Researcher/Nominee Information
Name ________________________________
Student ID# __________________
Year in School _______________________
Phone # ________________________________
Major ________________________________
MU E-mail ________________________________

Local Address/Zip ________________________________
Family’s Address (Where register to vote. Include County)
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________
____________________________________

High School ________________________________
City ___________________ State ________

My Missouri Senatorial District: ________________________________
My Missouri House District: ________________________________

http://www.senate.mo.gov/lllookup/leg_lookup.aspx to find your districts. You must enter your zip code + 4 number. Don’t know your + 4 number? The US Postal Service website has that information!
C. Project Information

Research Project Title:

_________________________________________________________________________________

Funding Source for the Project (if any):

_____________________________________________________________________________________

Program Officer (ask mentor for this information):

Name ______________________________________ Email _________________________________

Please list where your poster has been presented:

1. ____________________________________________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________________________________________

Please attach as one document to this application:

• An abstract of this project. There is a maximum of 250 words.
• An 8.5” x 11” sized poster of this project.
• Please attach a brief description of your career interests and aspirations (max. 50 words).
• A brief explanation, in simple terms, of the relevance and importance of your research.
• Faculty members should send a brief letter of recommendation directly to UGR. The letter should address:
  • The student’s degree of enthusiasm for the project
  • Their educational experience at the University
  • The student’s ability to communicate with others outside their field of study
  • The student’s ability to represent the University.

Return this form and all materials combined into a single document to: ugr@missouri.edu