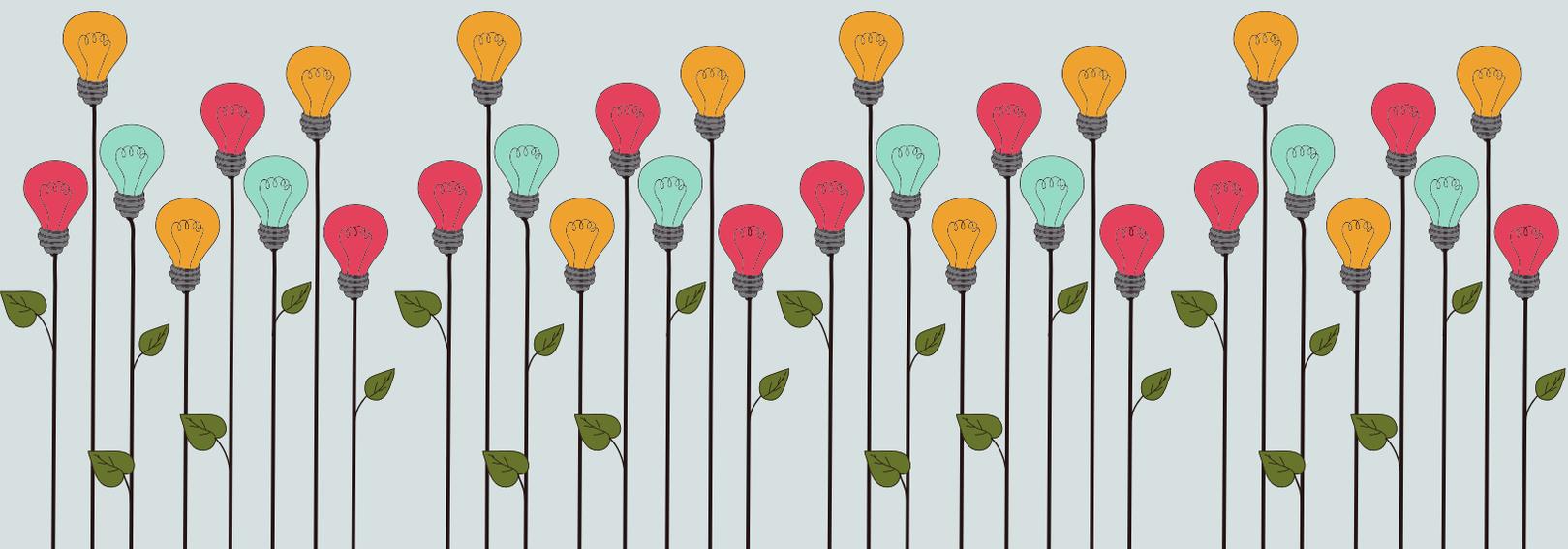


2020-21 Annual Report

Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs
Pennoni Honors College



Message from the UREP Director



Jaya Mohan, MA
Director, UREP

In September 2020, the former Office of Undergraduate Research and the former Center for Scholar Development combined to establish Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs, a new department in the Pennoni Honors College with the mission of shepherding students through opportunities for intellectual and self discovery through research, fellowships, and enrichment programming. This annual report serves as both a reflection of what we have been able to achieve together over the past academic year and as a starting point for where we go next.

The data of how many students we served and how many events we hosted throughout the year show one dimension of the impact we have had as an office. Less quantifiable but nonetheless inspiring is the depth of learning that students experience when applying for a fellowship (p 7), or completing a research project with a faculty mentor, or participating in the Aspire Scholars Program (p 12). In our inaugural year as a department, we have been able to build on the successful legacy of our former offices to create stronger, more connected pipelines of opportunities for students - from applying for internal undergraduate research mini-grants (p 6) to externally funded fellowships, from participating in enrichment workshops (p 10) to presenting their work on campus and at external conferences (p 6). Intellectual and self discovery go hand-in-hand – this, we believe, is the definition of experiential learning: that what you learn from your experiences extends beyond the field you are in or the work you are doing to who you are as a person, as a scholar, and as a professional. In our first year together, we have streamlined our programs and our offerings to students to showcase the value of the process, and I look forward to seeing how we can continue to do this in year two and beyond.



Leah Gates, MA
Associate Director



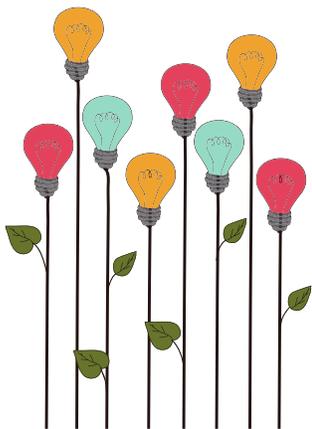
Kelly Weissberger, MA
Associate Director



Emily Kashka-Ginsburg, MA
Assistant Director



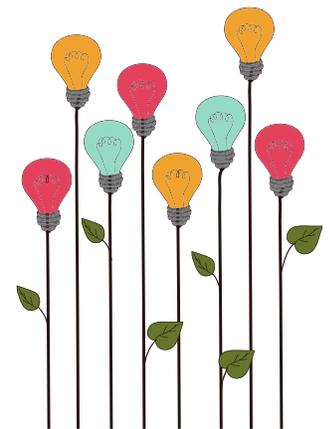
Martha Meiers, MS
Program Manager



Roxane Lovell, MA
Program Manager



Cara Fantini, MA
Program Coordinator



MISSION

Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs is a unit in the Pennoni Honors College that engages students across the university in the process of intellectual and self discovery through research, fellowships advising, and enrichment programming. We support students in their personal, academic, and professional growth at Drexel and beyond. Through advising and programming, we expand access to a full spectrum of experiential learning, empower students to make informed choices, and motivate them to turn passions into opportunities.

VISION

Our vision is a diverse and inclusive community of intellectually curious and resilient students and alumni who have the confidence to seek out the opportunities that align with their personal, academic, and professional goals and their vision of personal excellence.

VALUES



Competence and continuous learning



Transparent and collaborative teamwork



Organizational adaptation and resilience



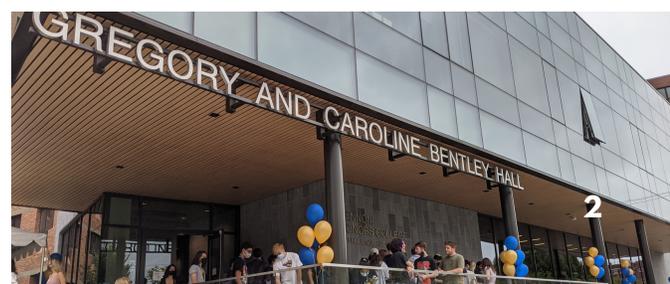
Prioritization of students and their individual development



Diversity, equity, and inclusion

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

We are committed to remedying historic injustices and increasing access to opportunities in research, fellowships, and enrichment for students who face systemic barriers to participation. In fostering a diverse and inclusive community of students within our programs, we aim to ensure that historically excluded students see and believe in paths forward to careers they want, that all students are supported as their whole selves in navigating the opportunities we offer, and to help cultivate empathy and mutual understanding.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

UREP offers a number of ways for students to get involved in and be supported and recognized while they participate in undergraduate research. We facilitate and increase opportunities for faculty-mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative work, including the Students Tackling Advanced Research (STAR) summer research program, SuperNova Research Fellows, as well as funding for undergraduate research conferences and other research expenses.

STAR SCHOLARS 2021

As we transitioned the program back to campus, we were able to maintain a full slate of programming for our Summer 2021 STAR Scholars. With partners including **Global Education, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, The Writers Room, Steinbright Career Development Center, and the Pennoni Honors College Academic Programs and Marketing & Media**, students were able to learn about the breadth of opportunities available at Drexel. In addition, we were able to offer our full series of Research Skills and Wellness Wednesdays.

QUICK PITCH COMPETITION

STAR Scholars had the opportunity to distill their STAR projects into a **three-minute, one-slide explanation, presented to a general audience.** **22 students** participated across **3 sessions**, culminating in a final round where 6 students competed to win the competition.

2021 WINNERS

Eva Kraus (Biomedical Engineering '25)
Yashvi Shah (Biological Sciences '24)
Katelyn Singh (Environmental Engineering '25)

RESEARCH RAMP-UP

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University ramped down research productivity across campus in early March 2020. As the pandemic wore on, the Office of Research & Innovation was tasked with ramping research activities back up across campus and approached UREP to manage the clearance process for undergraduate students to return to on-campus research activities in a safe and efficient way.

UREP was able to assist nearly 100 undergraduate students in resuming on-campus voluntary research activity between September 2020 and June 2021.



A **Loyalty Card competition** rewarded students for attending STAR events throughout the summer: For every event attended, students earned one "punch" on their card. Every 10 punches = one entry into a prize raffle. In total, **14 students submitted a total of 19 completed loyalty cards.**

VIRTUAL + OUTDOOR SHOWCASE

The 2020 STAR Scholars Program culminated in our first-ever virtual STAR Scholars Summer Showcase in September 2020. For 2021, we continued the virtual showcase option, and were able to add an in-person version on Lancaster Walk!



MENTORS OF THE YEAR



Dane Ward
Fall/Winter 20-21

"Dr. Ward is adaptable in a mentor setting and does all he can to ensure that each of his mentees are getting the experience they want and deserve."



Jerome Ricard
Spring/Summer 20-21

"The quality that makes a mentor outstanding comes down to how he is able to uplift the person he is mentoring, and Dr. Ricard embodies this trait with natural ease and professionalism."



Melinda Lewis
Summer 2021

"My discussions with Dr. Lewis have never failed to be both enjoyable and informative...every week I found myself excited to tell her about the research rabbit holes into which I had fallen."

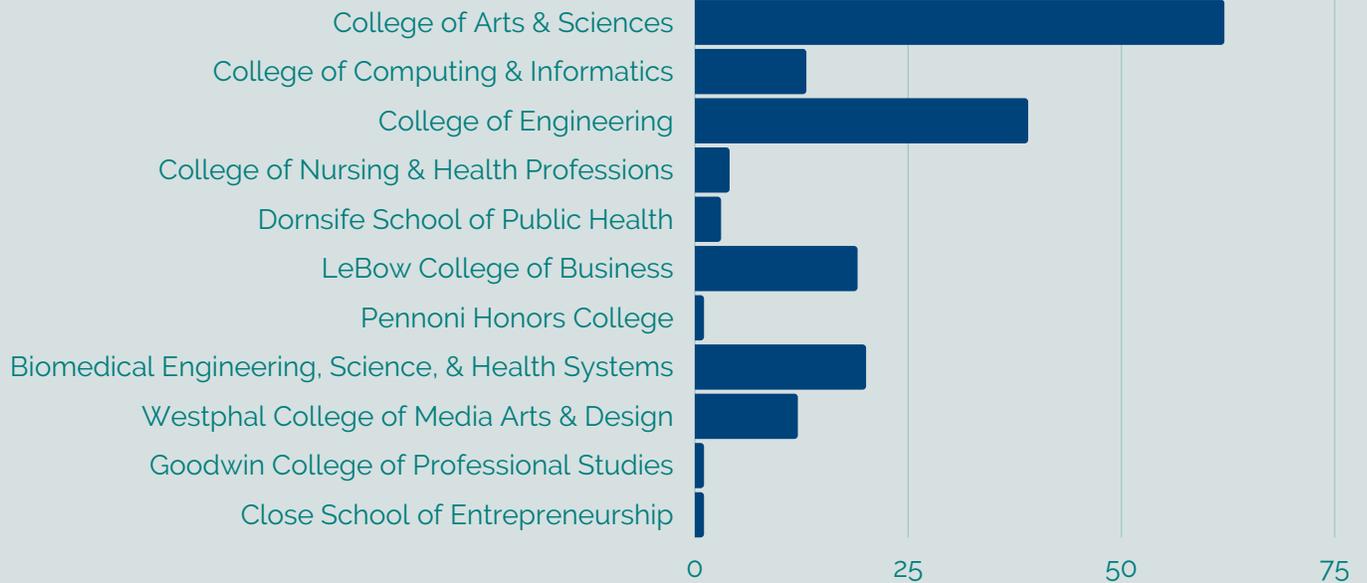


STAR SCHOLARS BY THE NUMBERS

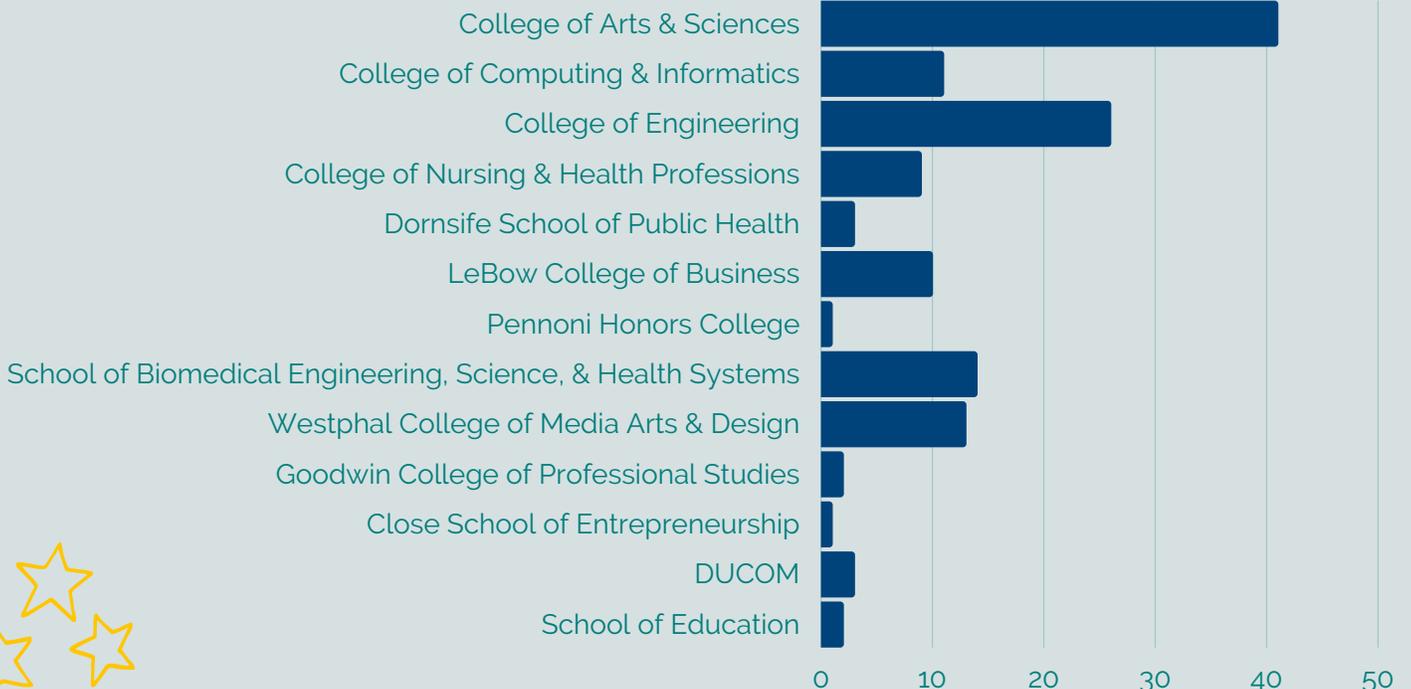
Fall/Winter 2020-21: **32 scholars**
 Spring/Summer 2021: **21 scholars**
 Summer 2021: **121 scholars***

*13 of the students in the Summer 2021 STAR Scholars Program participated in the Velay Fellows Program, designed to support undergraduate women in STEM pursuing research experiences and careers. This program is funded by the Panaphil and Uphill Foundations.

STAR SCHOLARS BY COLLEGE



STAR MENTORS BY COLLEGE



SUPERNOVA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS PROGRAM

The SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows Program enables students to document, reflect on, and be recognized for their sustained engagement in research and research-related experiences throughout their undergraduate career. Students earn recognition for their participation in research experiences, conference presentations, fellowships applications and more through digital badging and work towards one of two designations: Research Fellow or, the higher designation, SuperNova, which appears on the student's transcript upon graduation. **In 2020-21, nine seniors graduated in the SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows Program, seven of whom achieved the SuperNova designation.**

A few of our 2021 SuperNova graduates...



Eric Gebski
BS Biological
Sciences



Osmar A.
Torres Herrera
BS Chemistry



Raj S. Patel
BS Biomedical
Engineering



Maanasa Natrajan
BS Custom-Designed
Major, Quantitative
Studies in Life
Sciences



Mark Petrovic
BS/MS
Materials
Science &
Engineering



Renee Saraka
BS Chemical
Engineering



Nickolas
Giardetti
BS Physics

PATHWAY TO SUPERNOVA

The Office of Research and Innovation offered Rapid Response Grants in August 2020 to support programs and initiatives aimed at racial equity and justice. Dr. Jennifer Nasser (associate professor, College of Nursing & Health Professions) and Dr. Deborah Clegg (former associate dean of research, College of Nursing & Health Professions) worked with UREP to write and secure one of these grants to create the **Pathway to SuperNova Program – a research training program intended to engage historically excluded, underrepresented students in an introductory research experience.** In our first year, a **cohort of 8 students participated in biweekly meetings throughout Fall Term to learn about research and how to identify a faculty mentor.** The grant, along with support from Drexel LS-AMP (Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation) supported students' pay if they chose to continue on in the program with a **paid, part-time, faculty-mentored research experience** during Winter Term. These students concluded their experience with a **presentation at the 2021 Week of Undergraduate Excellence** virtual poster session and have been **invited to enroll in the SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows Program** if they intend to continue to participate in research and research-related experiences.

“

I am so glad I got to be part of the SuperNova program – imposter syndrome is real and this made me realize how much I have accomplished and that hard work pays off, especially being surrounded by extremely supportive faculty, mentors and everyone at UREP.

- Marta Koperska, Psychology '21

”



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS & CONFERENCES

Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs supports student researchers who have been accepted to present their work at local, national, and international conferences. Students who have been accepted to present work at such events can submit applications for partial travel funding. We offer reimbursements up to a certain amount for students traveling to domestic and international conferences.

TRAVEL GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS



Total funding awarded in travel grants in FY 21, equaling **20** total grants for **9** different students



- National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR): **4** students
- National Collegiate Research Conference (NCRC): **7** students

And one student each to the...

- International Joint Conference on Neural Networks, Mobile Human Computer Interaction Conference, Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students, American Chemical Society, American Chemical Society Great Lakes Regional, Marconi Institute of Creativity, and the European Conference on Cyber Warfare and Security

NEW: Undergraduate Research Mini-Grants

During the 2020-21 academic year, UREP launched Undergraduate Research Mini-Grants. The goal of these grants is to **provide further support for faculty and student collaboration** in undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative work at the university while also offering undergraduate students the **opportunity to build skills in crafting effective application materials for funding opportunities**. In our pilot year, student and faculty pairs were able to apply for **grants of up to \$1,500 to defray research costs**, including equipment, materials, publication fees, and even student pay. We opened applications twice during the year, to provide grants for student and faculty pairs in Winter Term and Spring Term.

MINI-GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

Winter Applicants: **70**

21
awarded



Winter Term Funding Awarded

Spring Applicants: **27**

18 awarded



Spring Term Funding Awarded



During the 2020-21 academic year, UREP transitioned away from the Discover platform and launched **ForagerOne, a new online platform to connect faculty and students in research**. This platform allows faculty to indicate their availability to mentor students and to recruit students for available research projects, while enabling students to more easily navigate the faculty mentor search process. Learn more at drexel.edu/pennoni/urep/undergraduate-research/finding-research

FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships are opportunities to expand students' learning and development beyond Drexel through funded experiences in research, travel, leadership, graduate study, and more. Undergraduate Research and Enrichment Programs raises campus-wide awareness of these opportunities and directly helps students create strong applications through intensive individual advising and support.

FELLOWSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Fellowships Applicants: **177**

75
recognized



Hours Spent Advising

Sept. 1, 2020 - Aug. 31, 2021

APPLICANTS BY COLLEGE

- College of Arts & Sciences: **61**
- School of Biomedical Engineering, Science, & Health Systems: **10**
- LeBow College of Business: **17**
- College of Computing & Informatics: **7**
- School of Education: **5**
- College of Engineering: **33**
- Close School of Entrepreneurship: **2**
- Pennoni Honors College: **12**
- Westphal College of Media Arts & Design: **11**
- College of Nursing & Health Professions: **10**
- Dornsife School of Public Health: **6**
- Drexel University College of Medicine: **3**

EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As you might imagine, international fellowships were *significantly* affected by the pandemic:

- **Fulbright US Student Program** grantees abroad during the 2019-20 academic year had their grants terminated early. Some were able to remain in their host countries and continue with academic activities virtually or in a limited way. 2020-21 grantees had their grants cancelled or deferred, depending on their particular host country. *Fulbright had a record number of applicants for the 2021-22 cycle but offered fewer awards due to some countries' limited capacity to host visitors.*
- A number of **Critical Language Scholarship** recipients had the option to complete summer language learning programs virtually in 2020 and 2021.
- Most **Boren Awards** recipients were unable to use their grants due to suspended study/research abroad and international internship program.
- **Gilman Scholarship** and **Freeman-ASIA** recipients had their programs cancelled or suspended, and most had the option of deferring, reapplying for the next academic year, or participating in a virtual or remote program.



We are proud of the resiliency and determination the affected students showed as they adapted their plans and came to terms with the difficult and often unexpected changes they faced.

RECORDS TO CELEBRATE

16

Record number
of Gilman
Recipients
Spring 2021

10

Record number
of Freeman-
ASIA Recipients
Spring 2021

33

Record number
of Fulbright
Applicants
2021-22 cycle

20

Record number
of NSF GRFP
Honorees
10 recipients + 10
honorable mentions

EVENTS TO HIGHLIGHT

Faculty Supporting Graduate Research Abroad

- In AY 2019-20, the Graduate Fellowships Committee identified one of the challenges facing graduate students pursuing international research fellowships was a lack of advisor support. Working with Global Engagement, we convened a panel of faculty who have advised students pursuing international research, and asked them to speak frankly about the challenges, rewards, and logistics of enabling their students to spend time abroad. Attended by over 50 faculty and staff, the conversation generated significant enthusiasm for better supporting students in these endeavors.

Tumultuous Travel Tales: Disaster Stories from Abroad

- This informal story slam event during the *Week of Undergraduate Excellence in May of 2021 was a collaboration with the Office of Global Engagement. Building on the "Disasters" theme of the previous day's Student Conference on Global Challenges, the event featured Drexel students, faculty, and staff sharing their most unexpected international adventures, with prizes for the best stories.

Spring Applicant Celebration

- At the end of the Week of Undergraduate Excellence, UREP hosted a virtual reception to celebrate all fellowships applicants from the 2019-20 and 2020-21 academic years, who worked especially hard to balance the demands of virtual classes, remote work, and time-consuming fellowships applications. We caught up with applicants and shared stories of how we coped with the challenges of the past year.

**See page 11 for more on the Week of Undergraduate Excellence*

BY THE NUMBERS: FALL '20 - SUMMER '21

Events held: **55**

Students attended: **339**



Serena Joury, BS Environmental Science '22
2021 DAAD RISE, Germany



Marissa Olson, BA Global Studies '20
2020-21 Fulbright ETA to Spain



Elizabeth Le, BS Environmental Engineering '24
2021 Gilman Scholarship to South Korea

FACULTY/STAFF PARTICIPATION

Faculty and staff supported our work by participating in **writing groups**, which give students feedback from facilitators and peers on their early drafts, **committees**, which interview and select candidates for endorsement or nomination for specific rewards, and **campus reviews**, which provide intensive, expert feedback on advanced application drafts.

Thank you to our partners for your...



Total Acts of Service

Sept. 1, 2020 - Aug. 31, 2021

ACTS OF SERVICE BY COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT

College of Arts & Sciences: 74

Biomed Engineering, Science, & Health Systems: 22

LeBow College of Business: 6

College of Computing & Informatics: 13

School of Education: 6

College of Engineering: 27

Pennoni Honors College: 15

Westphal College of Media Arts & Design: 11

College of Nursing & Health Professions: 3

Goodwin College of Professional Studies: 2

Dornsife School of Public Health: 6

Drexel University College of Medicine: 16

Kline School of Law: 4

Enrollment Mgmt & Student Success (EMSS): 7

Office of Global Engagement: 5

Lindy Center for Civic Engagement: 1

Steinbright Career Development Center: 1

Drexel Upper Level Administration: 3

FROM OUR APPLICANT SURVEY...

“

Comments from campus review were especially helpful in tightening up the application... regular meetings made such a difference in how I felt about my application and the quality.

”

“

Responding to what resources were helpful: "Connecting with my fellowship advisor, submitting drafts to peers for review, and working with someone very close with you in the final stages to make sure your application screams you."

”

UNDERGRADUATE ENRICHMENT

Undergraduate Research and Enrichment Programs works with students and partners across the University to provide workshops, resources, and programming designed to help undergraduates enhance their educational experiences, engage in self-reflective learning, and encourage informed decision-making. From sessions on getting involved in and presenting research to getting strong recommendations and writing personal statements, we help guide students through all stages of their academic career.

WORKSHOPS

UREP offers interactive **workshops, events, and other learning opportunities** throughout the academic year designed to support students while at Drexel and prepare them for their future goals. Workshops include **preparing for graduate school**, asking for **letters of recommendation**, and other personal and professional development strategies.

Total events held Fall '20-Summer '21: **28**

376+ students registered

255+ attended



DEI EVENTS TO HIGHLIGHT

UREP is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in undergraduate research and fellowships. To further this goal, we have developed an event series entitled Candid Conversations with UREP! Thank you to the other offices and student organizations that partnered with us for these events to bring fresh perspectives relevant to the topics being discussed.

17 registered

12 attended

COVID-19 Diversity Panel Discussion: Our inaugural candid conversation, held in November, focused on the impact of COVID-19 on research and featured Drexel researchers of color.

42 registered

27 attended*

*Highest attended enrichment event this year!

Black Excellence in Research Panel Discussion: In February, for Black History Month, we focused our conversation on the experiences of Black Drexel faculty and staff who completed research across a broad range of topics.

29 registered

21 attended

Navigating Predominantly White Spaces as a Black Scholar: A conversation with the IDEA Committee at the Steinbright Career Center and the Director of The Student Center for Diversity.

30 registered

24 attended

Womxn in STEM Lightning Talks: A one-hour event of research-focused lightning talks by students who identify as women in a STEM field.

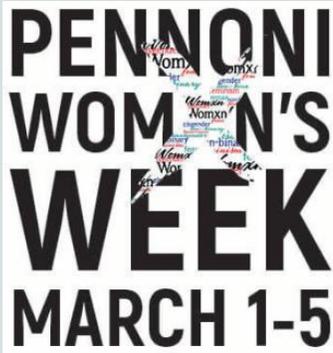
18 registered

14 attended

Navigating Complexities in Asian Identities: A discussion on the complexities of Asian identities, including a panel of Asian identifying students, Drexel's Asian Student Association, and Dr. Sonali Jain from the Sociology Department.

Total Attendees across all DEI events: **98**

PARTNERED PROGRAMMING & COLLABORATIONS



In honor of Women's History Month, the Pennoni Honors College collaborated to host a week-long series of events to uplift and inspire women. Events included a TED Talk with Drexel's Womxn's Empowerment Group on intersectionality, Womxn in STEM Lightning Talks featuring Drexel students, a panel discussion focused on COVID-19 and the "She'cession", a movie night and discussion featuring the women in STEM film "Picture a Scientist", and a conversation with Women's Campaign International on how to give back to a global community of women. These events created space for womxn at Drexel to discuss challenges, offer support, and empower the students in attendance. Collaborations involved PHC Academic Programs, Marketing and Media, and several other womxn centered student-led organizations.



Nerd Night @ Drexel U is a quarterly lecture series that invites students to give short, informal presentations on a topic they are passionate about. Between talks, attendees participate in rounds of trivia. Over the last academic year, the event took place over Zoom, giving attendees and presenters more flexibility as well as new mediums of participation for trivia. **Some presentations from this year were:**

- Exploring the Utility of Addiction Theories, Marta Koperska '21
- The (Social) Medium is the Message, Hunter Heindenriech '21
- How to End Cash Bail with Art, Laura Bros '21
- Stumbling into Interdisciplinarity, Aditi Bawa '22

WEEK OF UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE (WUE)

A week long event typically held in the spring, celebrating undergraduate excellence across the university. After skipping the celebration in 2020 due to the pandemic, we held a virtual version in 2021.

Thank you to our 2021 collaborators, who developed unique and engaging events to make this week a success:

Pennoni's Academic Programs | Westphal Theater Company | Drexel's Education Abroad | LSAMP | LeBow College of Business | Pennoni's Marketing & Media | Westphal Performing Arts | Office of Global Engagement | The Painted Bride Quarterly | Drexel's Writing Program



EVENTS CALENDAR

ICON KEY



MONDAY, MAY 17

11am-12pm
CSDN Capstone Presentation
Cecilia Cirne: "Social Applications of Food Science: Upcycled Product Development"



12-1pm
A Conversation with Drexel Co-Op Theatre Company
Verbatim Documentary Theatre project "Essential"



3-4pm
Honors Program Panel of Work



4-5:30pm
The Painted Bride's Wham, Bam, Writing Slam: Improv Writing Game



TUESDAY, MAY 18

9-5pm
Student Conference on Global Challenges: Disaster
Virtual conference addressing topics from climate and natural disasters to pandemics and economic threats.



2-3pm
The Anti-Resume Project:
Learn more about the project & how to get involved!



WEEKLONG EVENT: VIRTUAL POSTER SESSION

View student research posters throughout the week at bit.ly/WUE2021postersession



WEDNESDAY, MAY 19

12-1pm
Diversity & Inclusion
Perspectives on Resilience in STEM



1-2pm
CSDN Capstone Presentation
Dominick Baglivo: "BLIGATORY: Bringing a Community-Focused Approach to Music Journalism"



5-7pm
Nerd Night @ Drexel U



6-7pm
TEDxLeBow



7-8:30pm
Tumultuous Travel Tales: Disaster Stories from Abroad



THURSDAY, MAY 20

1:30-2:30pm
CSDN Capstone Presentation
Jasmine Timar: "Environmental Marketing"



3-4pm
CSDN Capstone Presentation
Daniel Clark: "Popularity Induced Volatility in the Equity Market"



3:30-5pm
Pennoni Panel
Show Me the Money: The Ethics of Philanthropy



5:30-6:30pm
Performing Arts Showcase
Undergraduate Excellence in Music, Theatre & Dance



FRIDAY, MAY 21

11am-12pm
CSDN Capstone Presentation
Maanasa Natrajan "A Modeling Framework for Studying Dynamic Memory Representations in the Hippocampus"



12-1:30pm
SuperNova Celebration



3-4:30pm
Fellowships Applicants Celebration (invitation only)



VIEW FULL EVENT DETAILS & REGISTER AT **11**

ASPIRE SCHOLARS

The Aspire Scholars Program is designed to provide promising, curious, and motivated Drexel sophomores an opportunity to further develop and clarify their goals. Scholars attend monthly group meetings to develop mentoring goals, craft strategies for identifying and building successful mentoring relationships, and reflect on professional and career development plans. Due to the pandemic, for the first time, Aspire Scholars was fully virtual for 2020-21. Despite this, the students still made efforts to meet in person and connect as a cohort.



Amirah Brew-Syders
BS Criminology and
Justice Studies '23



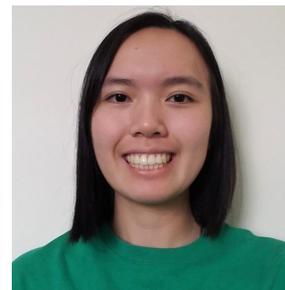
Andrea Eleazar
BS Public Health '23



Anthony Lisi
BS Chemistry '23



Elizabeth Clarkson
BS Environmental
Engineering '24



Elizabeth Le
BS Environmental
Engineering '24



Feben Wolde-Semayat
BS Chemical
Engineering '24



Inara Pirani
BSBA Finance '24



Jade Umstead
BS Criminology and
Justice Studies '23



Kejsi Ruka
BA Global Studies '24



Majo Garcia
BS Biomedical
Engineering '24



Mathilda Nguyen
BS/BA Computer
Science and
Mathematics '24



Sam Seiden
BS Environmental
Engineering '24



Samuel Toseafa
BS Computer
Engineering '24

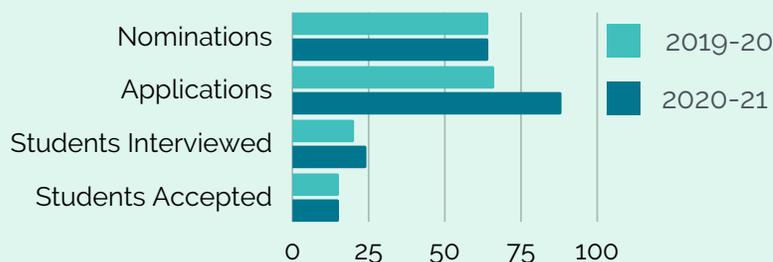


Smrithi Pyari Lal
BS Computer Science '24

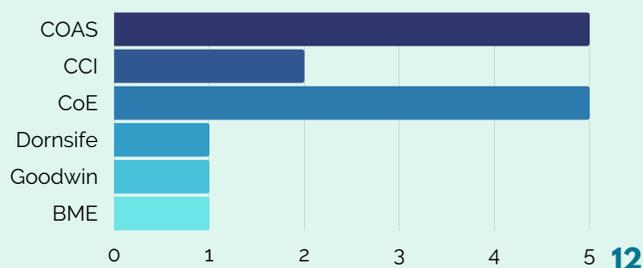


Subhi Karthikeyan
BS Biological Sciences '23

ASPIRE APPLICATION STATS



2020-21 COLLEGE REPRESENTATION



MEETING TOPICS & PANEL EVENTS

Despite the social downsides of not being able to meet in person, we pulled it together to make a record-breaking number of 3 meetings with the full available cohort! Otherwise, all monthly meetings had been split into two groups due to scheduling conflicts with co-ops, classes, and other commitments, which is the norm for this annual program.

Benefits of being virtual:

- Greater accessibility for informational interviews
- More flexibility with dates and times of meetings
- More accessibility for guest speakers when traveling to campus is not necessary
 - We hosted two panel events featuring prominent alumni, Drexel staff and faculty, and external partners.
- Able to account for a variety of time zones
 - One of our students Zoomed in while abroad in South Korea, another joined us from her home in Honduras!

Topics from student meetings:

- Goal Setting
- Digital Networking & Communications
- Mentorship Scavenger Hunt
- Informational Interviews with alumni and related professionals
- Personal Strategic Planning



FROM OUR PROGRAM SURVEYS...

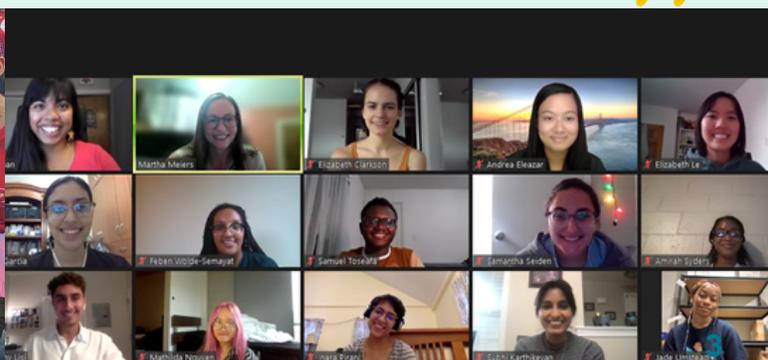
“ Before the program, I have always been a person who, especially during an academic term, focuses on their academic work and placing their goals in the back of their minds. I believe this program has made me realize that my education is helping me get to my goals, and actively thinking about them helps me achieve them. ”

“ The networking aspects of Aspire definitely gave me a lot of benefit. I was always hesitant to reach out to people, especially through cold messaging, but the fact that all of the cohort was going through the same thing made me feel more confident. ”

“ Aspire Scholars pushed me to create new connections and strengthen existing connections that I had already developed...Listening to the experiences of others, even outside my area of interest, presented me with interesting new ideas and things to consider for the future. ”

“ I believe I benefited most from the community provided...The connections with the students of the 2020-21 cohort, alumni of the program, and Martha and Jaya, were beneficial. I developed a sense of belonging and confidence in my abilities as a student and individual outside of the University. ”

“ I feel great now that I have organized short term and long-term goals for both academic, career, and personal aspects of my life. I have been able to meet virtually with a handful of great connections so far, as well as my fellow Aspire Scholars. These meetings have been extremely informative, and I feel as though I am making long term connections to benefit my future. ”



UREP AMBASSADORS

UREP Ambassadors is a paid program that employs students who have experience working with our programs. Ambassadors are frequently present at information sessions and events to share their experiences with their peers; additionally, Ambassadors serve as mentors for the STAR Scholar program. Aside from helping to market and promote the activities offered by our office, UREP Ambassadors are also provided with workshops and trainings to help develop their own personal and professional development skills.

During the Fall quarter we began laying the groundwork for a UREP Ambassadors program. We envisioned hiring a group of students who have participated in programs run out of our office and were willing to share their experiences with the Drexel community. From there we recruited students and launched a pilot program to explore the possibility of having students attend UREP events and share their experiences and narratives. After successfully running a pilot program for a few quarters we created an application and opened the program to the public for the Summer 2021 academic quarter.

PILOT GROUP: FALL 2020 - SPRING 2021

We recruited 5 students who agreed to participate and provide us with program feedback. These students were unpaid but received preference on the formal application.



Sophie Geagan

BS Biological Sciences '21
STAR Scholar



Pallavi Pareek

BS Biological Sciences '23
Non-STAR research student



Hunter Heidenreich

BS Computer Science '21
STAR Scholar, Goldwater Fellowship recipient



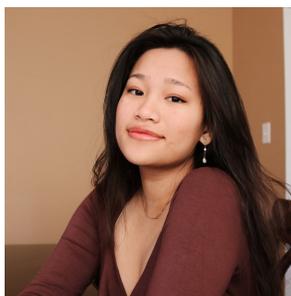
Darrell Omo-Lamai

BS Material Science & Engineering '21
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar



Renee Saraka

BS Chemical Engineering '21
SuperNova, STAR Scholar, fellowship applicant



Neha Chongtham

BS Biological Sciences '21
STAR Scholar



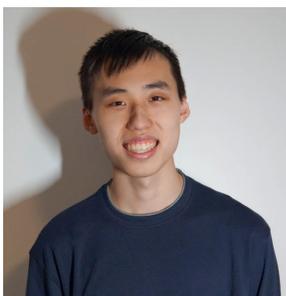
Amirah Brew-Syders

BS Criminology & Justice Studies '23
Star Scholar, Aspire Scholar, Undergrad Research Mini-Grant



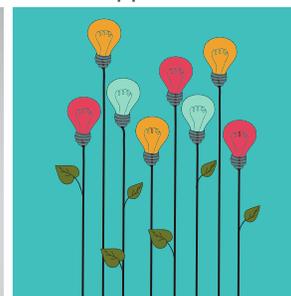
Andrea Eleazar

BS Public Health '23,
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, Gilman & Freeman-ASIA fellowship recipient



Kevin Liu

BS Mechanical Engineering '21
Star Scholar, Aspire Scholar



Aditi Bawa

BS Custom-Designed Major: Evidence Based Public Policy '21
STAR Scholar, fellowship applicant



Elizabeth Clarkson

BS Environmental Engineering '23
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar

BY THE NUMBERS



Number of Hours Worked

Fall-Spring Pilot Ambassadors



Number of Hours Worked

Summer '21 Ambassadors

UREP PROGRAM ALUMNI Where are they now....



John Quinlan
BS/MS Biomedical
Engineering '19



Emily Mah
BS Animation and Visual
Effects '23



Om Umare
BS/MS Computer
Engineering/Machine Learning
Engineering '23



Erica Garro
BS/MS Material Science &
Engineering '23

STAR Scholar, Fellowship Applicant, SuperNova Fellow
Current Bioengineering MD/PhD student at University of Maryland

"STAR Scholars...gave me a foundation for approaching, planning, and discussing research...Applying for fellowships taught me how to concisely discuss my experiences and how to frame them in the context of future goals -- this was key to my graduate school applications, and still helps me when reaching out to researchers and advisors."

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Recent co-op: Animator & Composer at Night Kitchen Interactive

"Since completing Aspire, I have used funding to attend SIGGRAPH conferences, purchase digital equipment, and join Women in Animation (WIA). Through WIA, I was accepted into a mentorship program for exploring careers in code." One key takeaway: "Being able to build connections and expand my network."

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Recent co-op: Quantitative Analysis at Venerable

"GPA and scores will take us only so far to get our foot in the door...but knowing how to talk and connect with your interviewer, or just colleagues, is one of the most valuable skills set...Aspire was the best part of my sophomore year...it was great to have a group of friends who are just as passionate and curious about everything around them as I am."

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Recent co-op: Mechanical co-op at Exponent

"After Aspire, I feel much more confident in my networking skills. I finally know how to phrase the questions I have and how to approach people at various stages in their career."



Antigone Bellanich
BS Information Systems '20

Aspire Scholar
Current Application Engineer and UX Designer at Vangaurd and MSI student in Human Computer Interaction and User Experience

"The Aspire Scholar's program taught me how to be a better advocate for myself in progressing my career."



Mark Petrovic
BS/MS Material Science &
Engineering '21

STAR Scholar, Fellowship Applicant, Aspire Scholar
Current MD/PhD student at Vanderbilt University

Key takeaway from Aspire: "Networking with individuals who have different academic backgrounds"



Isabella Pincay
BS Chemistry '23

Aspire Scholar
Recent co-op: Research Assistant at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Key takeaway from Aspire: "Networking skills and reaching out, it has been a great asset in being able to shadow medical professionals at my co-op and understand more of the path I want to take! I have been able to better network and try out different experiences."



Joseph Snyder
BA International Business '19,

Aspire Scholar
Current Portfolio Management Associate at Glenmede

Key takeaway from Aspire: "Being a personal and professional resource for current students and alumni...I have enjoyed staying in contact with the Aspire Scholars program through alumni panels and individual conversations and always happy to be a resource however I can help!"



Vida Manalang
BS Psychology '21

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Pursuing an MA in Mental Health & Wellness Counseling at NYU

"Take your time identifying the things you truly love and are passionate about (not what a degree, label, or title dictates for you). Be present on your journey! Forward thinking is wonderful for setting goals and ambitions, but the now is what will get you there."



Blessing Adogame
BS Information Systems '21

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Current Program Manager at Microsoft

"The power to leverage empathy in the realm of networking is something that I've learned. It's important to speak one's language and have an interest in building mutually beneficial relationships."



Dolma Sherpa
BS Interactive Digital Media '22

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Recent co-op: Product Management Analyst and User Experience Designer at Berkley Alternative Markets Tech

"There was a research opportunity I was interested in but I didn't bother reaching out until an Aspire Scholar's assignment told me to...from there...I volunteered in the research team, did an independent study...got to write a research paper as the first author, and was accepted as a published author for the MobileHCI 2021 conference. What this taught me is that don't let any opportunities slip away - if you're interested in something even the slightest bit give it a go and see where it takes you."



Tommy Bui Nguyen
BS Computer Science '23,

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Recent positions: Software Engineering Fellow at the U.S. Census Bureau, Civic Design Fellow through Coding it Forward

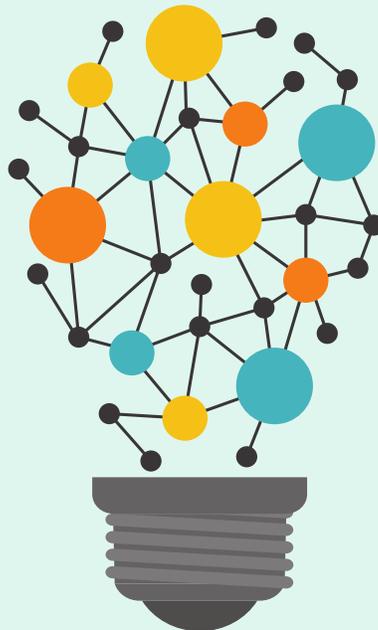
" Being able to build rapport and swap stories about careers has led me to learn about a lot of opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise explored...Since [Aspire] has ended, I've joined several communities related to technology ethics, the advancement of artificial intelligence, and communities thinking about how we could apply digital technologies to the critical issues of today."



Kevin Liu
BS Mechanical Engineering '23

STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar
Current Fellow with the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate Resiliency (MOCR) and NYC Panel on Climate Change (NPCC)

" I have developed a lot of interest in fields outside my current major, and the Aspire program gave me ideas of where to look and people to talk to to learn more and develop."



Find and network with UREP program alumni through our LinkedIn or Dragon Network!

LinkedIn:
www.linkedin.com/company/drexelurep

Dragon Network*:
<https://dragonnetwork.drexel.edu>

**Dragon Network is Drexel University's online professional community for alumni and students. This one-stop shop facilitates career-focused conversations, provides meaningful opportunities to give back and unites Dragons from around the world.*

CONNECT WITH UREP!

@DrexelScholarDev + @DrexelOUR = @DrexelUREP

In September, 2020, when our office officially became UREP, we merged the social accounts of the Office of Undergraduate Research and the Center for Scholar Development into one handle for all platforms: @DrexelUREP. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, for fun campaigns, information on upcoming events and fellowships, celebrations for and highlights from our students, and more!

STUDENTS BEHIND OUR SOCIAL

Meet the two student employees who worked hard to make our social media useful and engaging! **Medina Talebi and Margaux Cattelona** researched, drafted, and created posts and campaigns to increase our social presence.

Margaux Cattelona
BS entertainment & arts management '21, Honors

Margaux is a senior Entertainment and Arts Management major with minors in Business and Nonprofit Communication. She is on a theatre scholarship for Stage Management with the Co-op Theatre Company after serving as their General Manager last year. Margaux is excited to promote UREP's great opportunities and learn more about social media marketing!



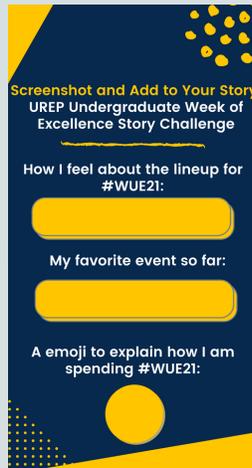
Medina Talebi
BA political science '22, Honors

Medina is passionate about research, politics, and the bridge between the two. She misses searching for the best study spots on campus and her favorite food trucks.



CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

This year we focused on increasing our Instagram presence, as it seems most students prefer that platform. Six Instagram campaigns were conducted, including **UREP FAQs**, **STAR Scholars** promotion, **Week of Undergraduate Excellence**, an **Instagram Takeover** from abroad, **Celebrating Graduates**, and introducing the **UREP Ambassadors**



TOP SOCIAL POSTS OF THE YEAR...



SCHWARZMAN SCHOLARS

Congratulations to Drexel alumnus Leonardo Focil, Schwarzman Scholar class of 2022!

Leonardo Focil (BSBA Finance, Economics, and Legal Studies '17) was recently selected for the sixth class of Schwarzman Scholars to pursue graduate study at Schwarzman College at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Read the full announcement at drexel.edu/pennoni/urep/news

4:30 PM - Dec 7, 2020 - Hootsuite Inc.

Congratulations to our 2021 Gilman Scholars!

This list does not include the students who declined to have their information shared online.

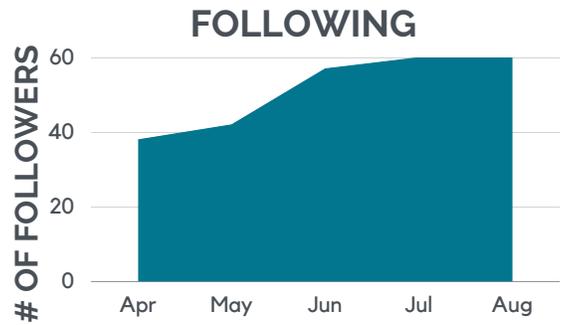
Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs

Gilman Scholarship

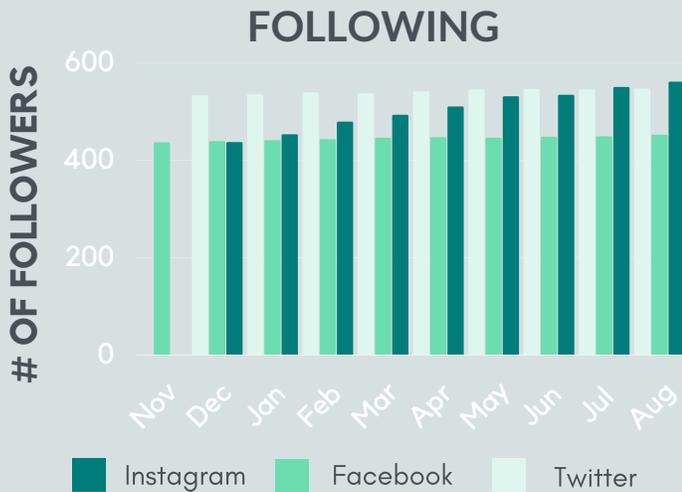
SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

LINKEDIN DEVELOPMENT

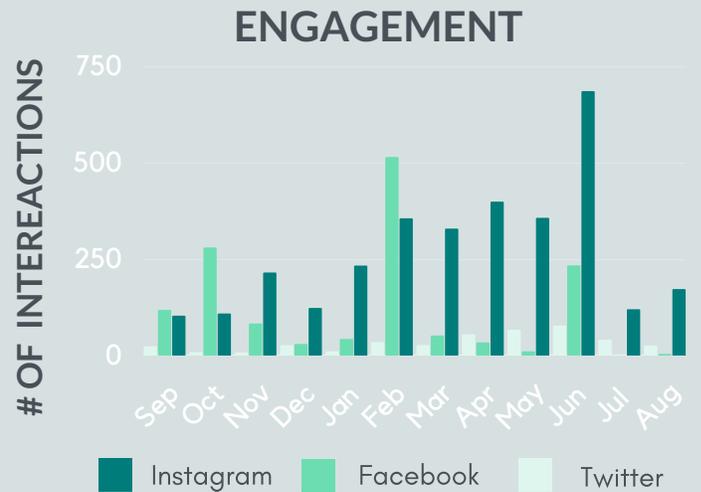
In April of 2021, a **LinkedIn audit** was conducted, which informed the development of a LinkedIn guide including best practices for using the platform to engage with students. As a result of our findings, **student accomplishments are now shared with our followers** who can then share to their own network. We've found that **students now feel more comfortable tagging us in their own posts** sharing their announcements, and our engagement on LinkedIn has increased.



Since we started using LinkedIn again, **our following increased by 61%**



Between November and August, there was an **11% increase** in our following across all social platforms.



We average **394 engagements per month** across all social platforms.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Website: drexel.edu/pennoni/urep

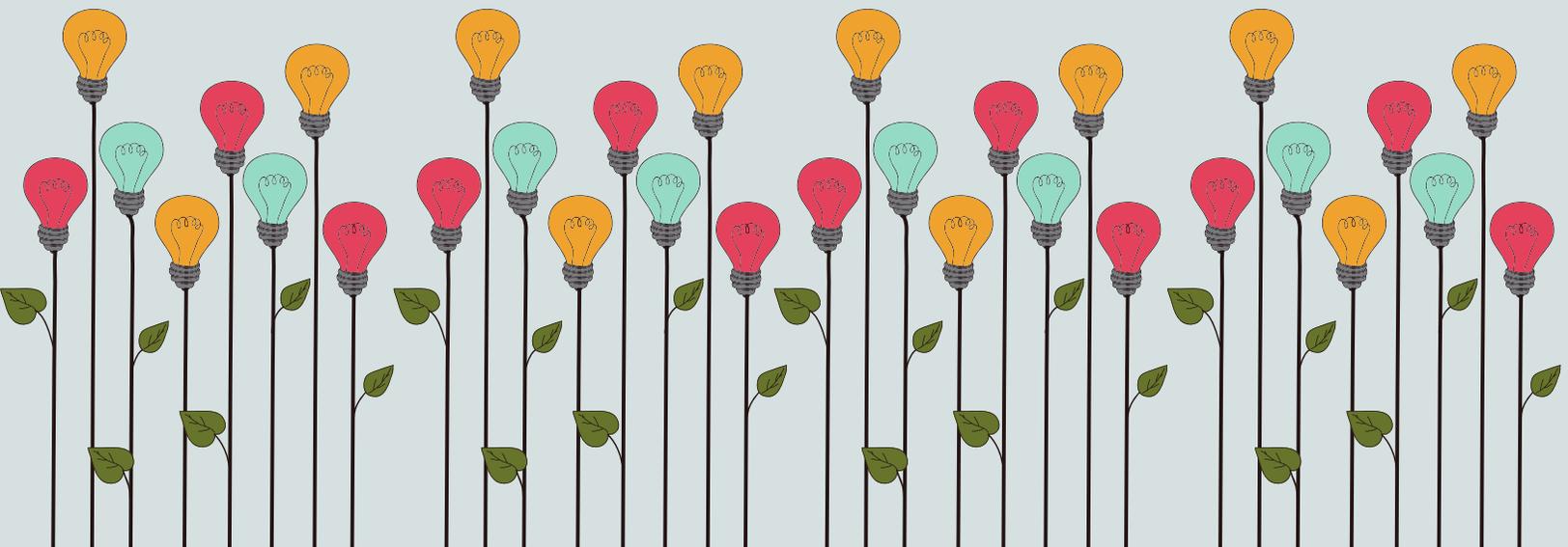
Email: urep@drexel.edu

Upcoming Events: drexel.edu/pennoni/urep/events

Offices:

3301 Arch Street
Bentley Hall, Second Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104





DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Research
& Enrichment Programs

Pennoni Honors College