We were thrilled to return to our on-campus home of Bentley Hall in Fall 2021, allowing us more opportunities to meet with students in person and host events in a variety of formats, including virtual, hybrid, and fully face-to-face. We continued to work towards our mission to expand access to experiential learning opportunities by working with a record number of applicants for the Gilman Scholarship (p.11), by establishing additional avenues to support underrepresented students in applying for and participating in the STAR Scholars Program (p.8), and by continuing to develop DEI programming, including our Candid Conversations series (p.14) and our collaboration with other departments in the Pennoni Honors College to host the second annual Pennoni Womxn’s Week (p.14).

We also celebrated the 20th anniversary of the STAR Scholars Program (p.6) and look forward to celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Pennoni Honors College throughout the 2022-23 academic year. These anniversaries, like our annual report, invite us to not only celebrate the impact of our programs, our department, and our college but to reflect on the progress we have made and that we can continue to make in supporting some of Drexel’s most motivated and engaged undergraduate students.

MESSAGE FROM THE UREP DIRECTOR

Our second year together as an office saw some changes in Undergraduate Research & Enrichment Programs (UREP), as well as the opportunity to build on our successes from the previous year. We said goodbye to some valuable staff members and welcomed some important new faces onto our team (p.2). Ultimately, we found ourselves coming together – back to face-to-face engagement with each other and with our students and further refining an integrated pipeline of experiences with which students can engage, showcased by the achievements of our fantastic UREP Frequent Flyers (p.18).

Jaya Mohan, MA
Director, UREP
In Fall 2021, we said goodbye to Martha Meiers, Program Manager for UREP. Martha was an essential member of our team, managing everything from our social media to the Aspire Scholars Program. Martha also created our first Annual Report as a merged department in 2020-21. We miss her dearly but know she is off to do great things!

In Fall 2021, we welcomed Ian Zimmerman as our part-time graduate assistant. Ian is a PhD candidate in Communication, Culture and Media and works with students on a wide portfolio of fellowships, including Gilman, Freeman-ASIA, CLS, Fulbright, and more. We are grateful for Ian’s support helping our students craft competitive applications for external fellowships.

In Winter 2022, we welcomed Rachel James as the Program Coordinator for Outreach in UREP. Rachel comes to us with experience working for Virginia Tech’s University Libraries, where she assisted students and staff in using library resources. In UREP, she is the brains behind our external communications, managing our social media, newsletters, outreach initiatives, and creating the annual report you are reading now! We are so lucky to have her on the team.
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
- Organizational adaptation and resilience
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Transparent and collaborative teamwork
- Prioritization of students and their individual development

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) Scholars Program and SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows, as well as funding for undergraduate research conferences and other research expenses.

STAR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The STAR Scholars Program is an opportunity for highly motivated first-year students to engage in an early faculty-mentored undergraduate research, scholarship, or creative experience during the summer after their first year. This highly competitive program seeks to identify and encourage students to take a hands-on approach to their education through undergraduate research.

Our Summer 2022 STAR Scholars participated in a revamped slate of summer programming focused on research skills, communication, and self-reflection. Campus partners, including the Office of Global Engagement, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, and the Pennoni Honors College Academic Programs and Marketing & Media, hosted drop-in hours where students could learn about the variety of opportunities available to them at Drexel.

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. 29 students participated across three sessions, culminating in a final round where nine students competed to win the competition.

2022 WINNERS

1st Place: Lorelei Booth, biomedical engineering ’26, “Quantification of Neck Bending Stiffness in Neonatal Piglets”
2nd Place: Francesca Pavluk, biological sciences ’25, “You Can Turn the Camera Off Now: Performance and Exploitation in Family Vlogging”
3rd Place: Matthew Soesanto, biological sciences ’26, “Plasma vs. Bacteria: The Fight for Salmon Fillet”

SUMMER SHOWCASE

The STAR Scholars Summer Showcase is an end-of-summer celebration where students present their work to friends, family, and Drexel community members. The 2022 Summer Showcase took place outdoors on Lancaster Walk. We also hosted a virtual showcase for those who could not attend in person.
Summer 2022:

122 scholars, 88 faculty mentors
10 out of 14 colleges & schools

12 students 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**

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Computing & Informatics
- College of Engineering
- College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Bennett S. LeBow College of Business
- School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems
- Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design
- Goodwin College of Professional Studies

**STAR MENTORS BY COLLEGE**

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Computing & Informatics
- College of Engineering
- College of Nursing and Health Professions
- Bennett S. LeBow College of Business
- Pennoni Honors College
- School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems
- Antoinette Westphal College of Media Arts & Design
- Goodwin College of Professional Studies
- College of Medicine

**OUTSTANDING MENTORS OF THE YEAR**

- **Caroline Schauer, PhD**
  Materials Science & Engineering, CoE
  “Reflecting upon our STAR experiences, we all are truly indebted to Dr. Schauer’s endless kindness and passion for bringing community to her laboratory space.”

- **Brian Stuart, PhD**
  Computer Science, CCI
  “As a mentor, Dr. Stuart has given us full control over our projects, making it known that I would be working with him, not for him. I often feel he has more faith in me than I do in myself.”

**FACULTY & ALUMNI SERVICE**

77 total external reviewers assisted with STAR application review in our current student application process, including 54 alumni and 23 Drexel faculty. With their help, we were able to ensure that each student’s application was read by six different reviewers – two staff in UREP and four external reviewers.
This academic year marked the 20th year of the STAR Scholars Program. Over 2,000 Drexel students have completed the STAR Scholars Program since it began, and these students and alumni identify the program as having been transformative and impactful. To celebrate the legacy of 20 Years of STAR, UREP held a logo design contest, collected testimonials from program alumni, and hosted a summer lunch & learn lecture series featuring STAR alumni and faculty mentors.

20 YEARS OF STAR SCHOLARS

Three faculty have mentored students since the first year of STAR:
- Glen Muschio, PhD, Digital Media, Westphal
- Margaret Wheatley, PhD, Biomedical Engineering, BIOMED
- Richard Cairncross, PhD, Chemical & Biological Engineering, CoE

These faculty have mentored the most students:
- Youngmoo Kim, PhD, Electrical & Computer Engineering, CoE - 45 students
- Felice Elefant, PhD, Biology, CoAS - 40 students
- Ajmal Yousuff, PhD, Mechanical Engineering, CoE - 36 students

*from 2002-2022, excluding missing data from 2004 & 2005

2,305
STAR Scholars

867,450
hours of mentored activity

Total faculty mentors 569

Thank you to our...

STAR SCHOLARS ALUMNI

Kristine Loh, BS chemical engineering, MS materials science & engineering ‘20, 2016 STAR Scholar
Kristine is an NSF Graduate Research Fellow & College of Science & Engineering Fellow at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, where she is pursuing a PhD in chemical engineering.
“I would not be where I am today without the STAR Scholars Program. As someone who didn’t have familial or community connections in STEM, I don’t think I would have even been informed of research opportunities without the formal structure of a program like STAR. The independence, confidence, and comfort I have in myself and my abilities as a researcher started with STAR.”

Matt Wiese, BS/MS mechanical engineering ‘18, 2014 STAR Scholar
Matt is a mechanical engineer at the US Naval Research Laboratory.
“I learned an incredible amount about robotics and software design, but the biggest takeaway was learning the research mindset. STAR gave me the first glimpse of research; the feeling of excitement, uncertainty, and innovation that borders the line between an idea and reality.”

Ryan Measel, BS computer engineering, MS electrical engineering, PhD electrical engineering ‘11, 2006 STAR Scholar
Ryan is a VP of Engineering at TIER Mobility, which recently acquired the company he founded with a fellow Drexel alum.
“Getting to work on real research projects with budgets, deliverables, and timelines sets context early on for how to work in a professional research environment. [STAR] put me on the path to feeling confident enough to run my own projects in grad school and ultimately launch a company.”

LOGO DESIGN CONTEST WINNERS:

1st Place: Rhythm Osan architectural engineering ’26 2022 STAR Scholar

2nd Place: Krisha Shah biological sciences ’24 2021 STAR Scholar

3rd Place: Rahul Inaganti environmental studies & sustainability ’25 2022 STAR Scholar
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 careers. 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 of SuperNova, which appears on the student’s transcript upon graduation.

In 2021-22, seven seniors graduated in the SuperNova Program, five of whom achieved the SuperNova designation. Six of our graduates are pursuing advanced degrees, including PhDs, a JD, an MD, an MPH, and an MS.

OUR 2021-22 SUPERNOVA GRADUATES:

- **Sumaiya Begum**
  BS biological sciences ‘22

- **Audrey Coffey**
  BS psychology ‘22

- **Emily Johns**
  BA chemistry, BS environmental science ‘22

- **Jasjit Kaur**
  BS chemistry ‘22

- **Merry Xiang**
  BS biological sciences ‘22

- **Merlin Kochunilathil**
  BS biological sciences ‘22

- **Zeal Jinwala**
  BS biomedical engineering ‘22

“The most impactful lesson I learned is that while adversity is inevitable, having faith in myself and my research teammates can get me through any obstacle. Research isn’t linear nor is it perfect. However, having a team of amazing researchers by your side as well as having confidence in your own research abilities allows you to overcome errors, unexpected results, and any other hurdles that come along in the adventure research really is!” - Sumaiya Begum

“Conducting research as an undergrad at Drexel has helped strengthen my passion for learning. I hope to continue to enjoy the learning process and discovering new topics as I pursue my professional career.” - Merry Xiang
In its second year, Pathway to SuperNova continued to engage underrepresented STEM students in a research training program, led by CNHP professors Jennifer Nasser, PhD, and Michael Bruneau Jr., PhD, followed by a paid, part-time, faculty-mentored research experience, funded by Drexel LSAMP.

This year, we expanded the training program to include presentations by Drexel faculty about their journeys as researchers. We would like to thank Nicolas Alvarez, PhD, CoE; Michael Bruneau Jr., PhD, CNHP; Michelle Dolinski, PhD, CoAS; Thomas Heverin, PhD, CCI; Justine Sefcik, PhD, CNHP; Kara Spiller, PhD, BIOMED; Maureen Tang, PhD, CoE; and Dane Ward, PhD, CoAS for sharing their stories with our Pathway to SuperNova students.

We had nine students and nine mentors in our 2021-22 Pathway to SuperNova cohort. Two students elected to enroll in the SuperNova Undergraduate Research Fellows Program, signifying their continued interest in engaging in undergraduate research.
I made connections with delegates from across the world and listened to indigenous leaders, climate scientists, and government officials. The conference was an astounding opportunity that deepened my understanding of climate change and its effects on society while confirming my desire to continue my education in environmental engineering to implement change in my local community.” – Alyssa Kemp

Alyssa Kemp, environmental engineering ’25

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH GRANTS & CONFERENCES

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

GRANTS BY THE NUMBERS

Total travel grant funding awarded in FY 22, for 17 students who attended 11 different conferences

Total mini-grant funding awarded in FY 22 for 10 Winter Term grants and 9 Spring Term grants

TRAVEL GRANTS

Students attended virtual conferences including:
- National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR)
- National Collegiate Research Conference (NCRC)

Students also returned to in-person attendance at many conferences, including:
- American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference
- Sociologists for Women in Society Conference
- Biophysical Society Annual Meeting
- American Colleges of Sports Medicine Annual Meeting
- INFORMS Optimization Society Conference

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH MINI-GRANTS

Undergraduate Research Mini-Grants support 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 2022-23, student and faculty pairs were able to apply for grants of up to $1,500 for the Winter and Spring Terms to defray research costs, including equipment, materials, publication fees, and even student pay.

UREP used funds provided by the Glenn ’48 and Grace Rugh Endowment to send five students to the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow (COP26) in Fall 2021:
- Alyssa Kemp, environmental engineering ’25
- Will Newman, computer science ’24
- Niyi Onanuga, architecture ’25
- Catherine Quinn, environmental science ’23
- Sarah Wetzel, public health ’23

“...made connections with delegates from across the world and listened to indigenous leaders, climate scientists, and government officials. The conference was an astounding opportunity that deepened my understanding of climate change and its effects on society while confirming my desire to continue my education in environmental engineering to implement change in my local community.” – Alyssa Kemp
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 LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Received a fellowship is a fantastic honor, but the process of developing an application is itself a high-impact growth experience. As part of an ongoing effort to better communicate the value of the process, we developed the following set of learning objectives.

As a result of participating in the fellowships application and advising process, students/alumni will be able to do some or all of the following:

- Reflect on and make narrative sense of formative experiences
- Articulate the value of their own knowledge, skills, and abilities
- Clarify their personal and professional aspirations
- Identify possible paths to career goals
- Cultivate relationships with faculty and professional mentors
- Feel confident in their writing and/or interviewing abilities
- Identify areas for future professional/personal/academic growth

FELLOWSHIPS BY THE NUMBERS

Fellowships Applicants: 153
Awardees & Honorable Mentions: 54

424 Hours Spent Advising
Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022

APPLICANTS BY COLLEGE

- College of Arts and Sciences: 51
- College of Engineering: 26
- LeBow College of Business: 25
- School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems: 13
- Westphal College of Media Arts & Design: 6
- College of Computing & Informatics: 5
- College of Nursing and Health Professions: 5
- Dornsife School of Public Health: 5
- College of Medicine: 5
- Pennoni Honors College: 4
- School of Education: 4
- Charles D. Close School of Entrepreneurship: 1
- Goodwin College of Professional Studies: 1

FROM OUR APPLICANT SURVEY:

“Even if I am not offered a fellowship, I am so happy I went through this whole process as I learned a lot about myself and it will help me write more application essays in the future.”

“This process has taught me to be better prepared for the other application cycles I hope to apply for in the upcoming months.”
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

After their international co-op in Cambodia was cancelled due to the pandemic, Akilah Chatman, BS environmental science ’22, successfully applied for a Fulbright Research Grant to Cambodia to design a community garden in the National Olympic Stadium in Phnom Penh.

Sky Harper, chemistry ’24, is Drexel’s first nominee and recipient in the Udall Scholarship’s Native health care category. Sky was also awarded the Goldwater Scholarship for top undergraduate students in STEM.

Coley Ferguson, real estate management and development ’25, received a CLS Spark award to study Chinese during the 2022-23 academic year. CLS Spark is a pilot virtual language-learning initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Michael Cheng, a former Drexel High School Scholar (HSS), was selected as a 2022 Rhodes Scholar. Michael participated in HSS from 2014-2017, when it was run by the Office of Undergraduate Research (now part of UREP).

Working on one fellowship application prepares students for future applications. After applying for but not receiving fellowships, these students reapplied and received awards:

Stephanie Katz, MS arts administration & museum leadership ’20 – 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, 2022-23 Fulbright Research Grant to Spain

Grace Zaborski, environmental studies and sustainability ’23 – 2021 Udall Nominee, 2022-23 Udall Scholar, Environmental category

Cherelle Connor, MS biomedical science ’19 - 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, 2021-22 American-Scandinavian Foundation Fellow

Olivia Wilson, PhD candidate materials science & engineering - 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, 2021-22 American-Scandinavian Foundation Fellow

Abhishek Adhikari, BS computer engineering ’21 - 2021-22 Fulbright Applicant, 2022 NSF GRFP Honorable Mention

Tajma Cameron, PhD candidate educational leadership and policy - 2022-23 Fulbright Applicant, 2021 Boren Alternate
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.

Total Acts of Service
Sept. 1, 2021 - Aug. 31, 2022

Thank you to our partners for your... 155

ACTS OF SERVICE BY COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT
- College of Arts and Sciences: 60
- College of Engineering: 20
- Graduate School for Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies: 19
- College of Computing & Informatics: 9
- Westphal College of Media Arts & Design: 8
- School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems: 7
- School of Education: 4
- College of Nursing and Health Professions: 4
- Pennoni Honors College: 4
- Office of Global Engagement: 4
- LeBow College of Business: 2
- Thomas R. Kline School of Law: 2
- Dornsife School of Public Health: 2
- College of Medicine: 1
- Enrollment Management & Student Success: 1
- Steinbright Career Development Center: 1
- Drexel University Online: 1

COVID-19 & International Fellowships: Many international fellowships resumed in-person activities in 2021 and 2022. Students who deferred their awards from previous years were able to use their grants, though some had to change their destinations and others declined due to logistical challenges.
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 writing personal statements and getting strong recommendations, we help students navigate all stages of their academic careers.

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 finding and talking to faculty mentors, asking for letters of recommendation, and other personal and professional development strategies.

![Workshop Image]

Total events held
Fall 2021-Summer 2022

WEEK OF UNDERGRADUATE EXCELLENCE

The Week of Undergraduate Excellence (WUE) is a week-long celebration held in the spring recognizing excellence across the university. This year, we returned to an in-person celebration with some events held virtually. Thank you to our 2022 collaborators, who worked with us to make this week a success:

Office of Global Engagement | Education Abroad | PHC Academic Programs | PHC Marketing & Media | Westphal Performing Arts | LeBow College of Business | Painted Bride Quarterly

### EVENTS CALENDAR

**MONDAY, MAY 16**

- 11am-12pm: COSN Capstone Presentation
  Andy Carr: "The History of Philadelphia Through Food"
- 2-3pm: Honors Program Panel of Work Honors Program students present their Honors Option extension projects.
- 4-6pm: Anti-Resume Project Pop-Up Stop by our table and learn more about this project!

**TUESDAY, MAY 17**

- 12-1pm: Job Seeking Warriors - Your Guide to Winning
  A roundtable for undergraduate aspiring job-seekers.
- 2-3pm: COSN Capstone Presentation
  Barbara Chernyavsky: "An Analysis on Cleaning, Exploring Printed Paper, Textile"
- 4:30pm: WUE Writing Slam
- 5:30pm: Performing Arts Showcase

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18**

- 12-1pm: So You’re Thinking About a PhD?
  A workshop for planning applications to research-based doctoral programs.
- 1-2:30pm: COSN Capstone Presentation
  Vr Nguyen: "Flourish - A Digital Solution to Improve Plant Care"
- 3-5pm: WUE Button-Making x UREP Drop-in Hours
- 5-6pm: LeBowX
- 6-8pm: Night Out @ Drexel U

**THURSDAY, MAY 19**

- 2-3pm: COSN Capstone Presentation
  Josh Goldhuber: "Music Driven Theatrical Storytelling"
- 9am-5pm: Student Conference on Global Challenges: Live Well Virtual conference addressing what it means to age and develop across the world across disciplines.

**FRIDAY, MAY 20**

View full event details & register: drexel.edu/wk-of-undergraduate-excellence

10am-12pm: UREP Student Celebration (invitation only)

2-3:30pm: COSN Capstone Presentation
  Kate Ryan “Tyonek, Alaska: Arcticative Energy Project”

**WEEKLONG EVENT: VIRTUAL POSTER SESSION**

View student research posters throughout the week at bit.ly/WUE2022postersession
NERD NIGHT @ DREXEL U
After two years in the virtual world, Nerd Night @ Drexel U returned as an in-person event. Bentley Hall’s second floor collaborative space provided the perfect venue for student presentations and trivia.

PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS:

**Serenity Baruzzini**, engineering ‘25 – “Furby Physiology: Seeing the World Through the Eyes of a Furby”

**Alexis Wiley**, BS environmental science ‘22 – "Lessons of Da Land: Food Sovereignty and Land Justice in Philadelphia”

**Amanda Collins**, biomedical engineering ‘23 – “Canine scent detection of sinonasal inverted papilloma (SNIP) in blood plasma and nasal secretions”

**Kara Moran**, health sciences ‘24 – “Medical Burnout”

DEI EVENTS & PROGRAMMING
UREP is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in undergraduate research, fellowships, and enrichment. In 2021-22, we continued our Candid Conversations series and hosted other DEI-focused events in collaboration with campus partners. Thank you to the offices and student organizations that partnered with us for these events and brought their unique perspectives to the topics discussed.

**CANDID CONVERSATIONS**

**Preserving Indigenous Heritage in a Modern Context**: In honor of Indigenous Heritage Month, we partnered with Drexel Indigenous Students of the Americas to examine the history of indigenous people in North America. Student panelists shared how they find strength through their cultural identities, spoke about indigenous traditions and practices, and discussed the challenges of preserving their heritage in a modern world.

**First-Generation Researchers**: Held in collaboration with First Forward in honor of First-Generation Student Day, this event featured first-generation faculty members speaking about the routes they took to get involved in research. A Q&A followed with the panelists, Jennifer Quinlan, professor of nutrition sciences, CNHP, and Dane Ward, assistant professor of biodiversity, earth & environmental science, CoAS.

**Breaking the Mold: Standards of Professionalism**: This Candid Conversation featured three Black women with professional connections to Drexel: Wendy Greene, JD, Kline School of Law; Aja Carter, PhD, BS biology ‘14; and Whitney Kerr, MS. Together we discussed standards of professionalism, respectability politics, and how to be your authentic self while maintaining professionalism in the workplace. This event was part of a series on developing professional skills and was held during Pennoni Womxn’s Week.

**What’s in a Name?**: Drexel faculty and staff joined in a conversation about the value of names and fostering a sense of belonging in educational spaces. Participants discussed the importance of individual identity and the cultural significance of names and brainstormed methods to make our spaces more inclusive and intentional.

This year’s Pennoni Womxn’s Week celebrated womxn at Drexel and discussed issues and challenges facing womxn today. PHC Academic Programs, Marketing & Media, and UREP collaborated to host a week-long series of events. We kicked off the week with “Breaking the Mold,” a Candid Conversations panel discussion about workplace standards of professionalism for Black womxn. We piloted social media highlights of Drexel students and organizations with Womxn’s Org Wednesday and a Womxn in STEM: Lightning Talk about finding community as a black woman in tech. Other events included the Pennoni Panel “Exploring Intersectionality” and a donation drive for Philadelphia-area non-profits.
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.

OUR 2021-22 ASPIRE SCHOLARS:

Serenity Baruzzini  
engineering ‘25

Ethan Binder  
screenwriting & playwriting ‘24

Quynh Bui  
health sciences ‘25

Elias Gkouveris  
physics ‘25

Tamir Gorham  
philosophy, politics & economics ‘25

Sky Harper  
chemistry ‘24

Alyssa Kemp  
environmental engineering ‘25

Eva Kraus  
biomedical engineering ‘25

Luyang Liu  
electrical engineering ‘24

Lakshmi Parvathinathan  
biological sciences ‘24

Nisha Patel  
biological sciences ‘25

Atara Saunders  
global studies ‘25

Griffin Stein  
biomedical engineering ‘25

Alexander Vallarta  
biological sciences ‘25

Lydia Victor  
entrepreneurship & innovation ‘23

2021-22 ASPIRE STATS
Total applications for 2021-22

College Representation

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<th>College</th>
<th>CoAS</th>
<th>CoE</th>
<th>BIOMED</th>
<th>Westphal</th>
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ASPIRE SCHOLARS: MEETINGS & CULTURAL EVENTS

Aspire Scholars monthly meetings were held in a hybrid format, with students attending in person and others joining virtually. The cohort met in multiple groups due to scheduling conflicts with co-ops, classes, and other commitments, which is the norm for this annual program. Over the summer, students were able to go on cultural outings including a visit to the Penn Museum and a Phillies game!

Topics from student meetings:
- Goals and future planning
- Mentorship and networking
- Informational interviews and cold emails
- Personal strategic career and academic planning
- Personal reflection

FROM OUR PROGRAM SURVEYS...

“I benefitted from] learning techniques regarding creating and sticking to career goals, both long term and short term.”

“We learned ways to build connections and methods of goal setting. These are very helpful for me regarding making plans and communicating with others.”

“Strategic planning has been super beneficial. I feel that it encompasses the vision and goal setting [workshop] but on a deeper level.”

“For me, the biggest thing would have to have been the strategic plan. I feel that I was really able to customize it and learn more about myself and my wants through the process.”

“I have benefited the most from my meeting with an Aspire alumni and my informational interview meeting. From the alumni meeting, I got to talk to another student about my co-op and interests and got a good perspective of an older student’s experiences. From the informational interview I got to talk to a working professional in my field of interest.”
UREP AMBASSADORS

UREP Ambassadors is a paid program comprised of students who have been deeply involved with our programs. Ambassadors connect with undergraduate students, serve as peer mentors for STAR Scholars, and assist with events, information sessions, and drop-in hours.

FALL/WINTER AMBASSADORS:

Merry Xiang  
BS biological sciences ’22  
STAR Scholar, SuperNova, travel grant recipient

Julia Dengler  
biomedical engineering ’23  
STAR Scholar, fellowship applicant

Dhruv Shah  
mechanical engineering ’23  
STAR Scholar, SuperNova, fellowship applicant, WUE presenter

María Paula Mijares Torres  
communication ’23  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar

Darrell Omo-Lamai  
matters science & engineering ’23  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, SuperNova

Nate Nguyen  
materials science ’25  
STAR Scholar

SPRING/SUMMER AMBASSADORS:

Ramya Ashish  
biomedical engineering ’23  
STAR Scholar, WUE presenter

Neha Chongtham  
biological sciences ’23  
STAR Scholar

Sky Harper  
chemistry ’24  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, SuperNova, fellowship recipient, travel grant recipient, Nerd Night presenter

Alyssa Kemp  
environmental engineering ’25  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, SuperNova, fellowship applicant, travel grant recipient

Elizabeth Le  
civil & architectural engineering ’24  
STAR Scholar, Aspire Scholar, fellowship recipient

Lydia Victor  
entrepreneurship & innovation ’23  
Aspire Scholar

Total number of hours worked since January 2022*  

140 hours  

*When we began using our current tracking system
DEEPENING OUR CONNECTION AS A MERGED OFFICE HAS HELPED US SERVE STUDENTS MORE HOLISTICALLY BY INTEGRATING RESEARCH, FELLOWSHIPS, AND ENRICHMENT. WE WANT TO HIGHLIGHT SOME OF OUR OFFICE’S “FREQUENT FLYERS”: STUDENTS WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN MULTIPLE PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES AND WHO EXEMPLIFY THE PURPOSE OF OUR OFFICE.

Sky was a 2021 STAR Scholar and a 2021-22 Aspire Scholar. He has applied for and received multiple fellowships, including the Goldwater Scholarship and the Udall Scholarship in the Native health care category. He is in SuperNova and has presented at Nerd Night and received travel grants to present at conferences. Sky shared his wealth of experience with our office as a UREP Ambassador.

Akilah received an Undergraduate Research Mini-Grant to support a research co-op with Dr. Dane Ward after their international co-op in Cambodia was cancelled due to COVID-19. They successfully applied for a Fulbright Research Grant to Cambodia to create a community garden in conjunction with The Idea Lab, their original intended co-op employer, and the National Ministry of Education.

Sarah has engaged with UREP from her first year at Drexel through grad school. A 2016 STAR Scholar, she worked with our office on multiple graduate fellowship applications. She received a 2020 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and a 2022 ASME Donald O. Thompson Graduate Student Fellowship. In 2022, Sarah won an Outstanding Graduate Student Mentorship Award, sponsored by UREP.

Darrell was a 2019 STAR Scholar and a 2019-20 Aspire Scholar. He was a UREP Ambassador and is participating in SuperNova. Currently, Darrell is working with our office to apply for fellowships for graduate school, where he plans to pursue a PhD in materials science.

Abbey was a 2019 STAR Scholar and a two-time fellowship applicant. She received the Gilman Scholarship to study abroad in South Korea in Summer 2020, but was unable to use the award due to the pandemic. Abbey persevered to successfully reapply for Gilman in 2021 and studied abroad in Costa Rica in Spring 2022.

Alyssa was a 2021 STAR Scholar and Velay Fellow and a 2021-22 Aspire Scholar. She received a travel grant to attend the UN Climate Change Conference and was one of Drexel’s 2022 Udall Scholarship nominees in the environmental category. Alyssa is one of our UREP Ambassadors and is participating in SuperNova.
STUDENTS BEHIND OUR SOCIALS
This year, we had two wonderful student employees who worked hard to make our social media useful and engaging! Medina Talebi, BA political science ’21, and Renee Amos, custom-designed major ’25, researched, designed, drafted, and created posts and campaigns for our social accounts. Medina worked for us in Fall 2021 and Renee in Spring and Summer 2022.

CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS
Instagram continues to be our most popular social media platform. We conducted several Instagram campaigns this year, including Womxn’s Org Wednesday, Recognizing Excellence in Others for the WUE, Fulbright Fridays, STAR Scholars takeovers, UREP Ambassadors introductions, and more.

TOP SOCIAL POSTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Congratulations! Drexel’s Spring 2022 Gillman Scholarship honorees
2. Recognizing Student Excellence
3. Summer Showcase photo dump pt.2! Lots of smiles despite the heat
4. Congratulations to Drexel’s Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Gillman scholars! The Gillman
5. Satvik Tripathi is a first-year computer science student in @drexel_cci who has...
Between Sept. 2021 and Aug. 2022, we had a 15% increase in our following across all social platforms.

Our Instagram account had the highest number of engagements, with a total of over 2,800 engagements.

Our Instagram account had an increase of 159 followers, the largest of all platforms.

Our LinkedIn following grew by 77%, the largest percent increase.

We averaged 365 engagements per month across all social platforms.

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KEEP IN TOUCH!

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Socials: @DrexelUREP

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