Goals:
1. The goal of the new COE Undergraduate Research group under FDRC will be to support faculty mentoring of undergraduate research at the College of Education.
2. This new group will help develop, foster and strengthen a practice and culture of faculty mentoring undergraduate research in education.

Vision:
Undergraduate research in education provides an opportunity for faculty to engage in research and practice. Boyer’s (1990) scholarship of teaching model recognizes the “scholarly enterprise...[that] begins with what the teacher knows...” (p. 23) and the importance of faculty as learners will guide the work of the group in recognizing an expanded vision of scholarship. John Dewey’s value for inquiry learning (Kinkead, 2003) provides support for an inclusive perspective of scholarship that COE faculty and undergraduate students may engage in to enhance knowledge of teaching and research.

Support for Research Opportunities:
The following are categories for which faculty, mentoring undergraduate students can apply for support. Likewise, students mentored by COE faculty may also initiate the application.

Category 1- Faculty-research mentoring
Faculty have primary responsibility and students “supply meaningful contribution in the construction of the final product” (McDorman, 2004, p. 39).

Category 2- Faculty-research collaboration
Reciprocal process whereby faculty and students work in tandem on research both have identified to work on together. Each one providing meaningful feedback for one another (Grobman & Kinkead, 2010, xvi).

Category 3- Student-research collaboration
Where the student identifies a research to engage in as the lead author and final decision maker but needs a faculty mentor to guide, critique and make suggestions for the research (McDorman, 2004; Grobman, 2007).
Eligibility Requirements:
COE Faculty (Full-time) are eligible to apply for the COE Undergraduate Research Award to support undergraduate student research mentoring.

Student applicants must meet the following criteria and expectations:
- Be an undergraduate student at the College of Education;
- Remain a full-time student at the College of Education for the entire duration of the project;
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 to match the new TEEB (COE) policy for our majors or a minimum of 2.75 for the last 60 credits;
- In cases of group projects, each student in the group must meet the eligibility requirements.

Research Funding and Schedule:
Faculty and undergraduate researchers may apply for awards that will range from $500 - $750 for scholarship support per academic year. For all accepted proposals, it is possible that funds awarded will be less than requested. COE Undergraduate Research Award recipients are expected to present their work at the COE Annual Research Forum in the Spring, OURCI’s Research & Creative Inquiry Forum providing a brief report by May 15 to be included with the FDRC Final Report.

Application:
The COE FDRC is partnering with Undergraduate Research and Creative Inquiry (URCI) in order to foster and strengthen the culture of undergraduate scholarly inquiry at Towson University. Applicants for the College of Education 2020-2021 Undergraduate Research Award will submit their application using the Research & Creative Inquiry Award Application. Additional information, including application elements and details about the URCI Research Impact Award, may be found on the URCI website here.

Please note that the application should be submitted by the undergraduate student(s). Applicants will also be expected to complete and upload a budget using the provided template. Faculty mentor(s) must submit a confidential letter of support to ourci@towson.edu by the deadline. The letter of support should also indicate the category of research (i.e., Category 1- Faculty-research mentoring, Category 2- Faculty-research collaboration, Category 3- Student-research collaboration).

Following the application deadline, the COE FDRC will then review all applications from the COE and will recommend which proposals may be funded through COE and which may be funded through URCI.

Award Disbursement:
Money awarded under this program is distributed through the Office of the Dean and must be spent by June 15. Faculty mentors and undergraduate student recipients are responsible for committing to present at the COE Annual Research Forum in the Spring, OURCI’s Research & Creative Inquiry Forum and providing a brief report by May 15 to be included with the FDRC Final Report.
References


