

Finding External Opportunities

Dr. Michelle Richards-Babb
West Virginia University



**FIRST2
NETWORK**

*First2 Network
Fall 2024 Conference*



***Paid
Opportunities
to Participate
in UG
Research
Experiences***

In addition to the experience, UG research participation can help with:

- Letters of recommendation
- Personal statements
- Improved oral communication skills for interviews
- Experience that assists in application for prestigious scholarships/fellowships
- Networking



***Paid
Opportunities
to Participate
in UG
Research
Experiences***

- SURE (within WV)
- NSF-REU Sites
(nationwide)
- NIST SURF (nationwide)
- NIH C-SOAR & SIP
(nationwide)
- NOAA Hollings Scholarship
(nationwide)
- AmeriCorps
- NASA Space Grants



WVU Summer Undergraduate Research Experience ([SURE](#))

- **Mentored, full-time research**
- **Professional development**
- Stipend (~\$5,000)
- 60+ students funded at WVU in Summer 2024.
- First-gen and underrepresented students are especially encouraged to apply.
- Applications open Nov-Jan for Summer 2025.
- 19 years strong in WV
- Funded fully or partially by the WV HEPC Research Challenge Fund



Dr. Daniel Panaccione, Jessi Tyo (Biology), and Caroline Leadmon (Biochemistry). Caroline, now in law school, was supported in SURE at WVU.



SURE Sites exist at WV institutions: WVU, Marshall, Shepherd, West Liberty, WVSU, WWC, FSU, and WVU Tech.

NSF-funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU, available nationwide) ([Search REU Site](#))

- **Mentored, full-time research**
- **Professional development**
- Available at institutions nationwide
- Culminating research symposium
- Stipend (~\$6,000 for 10 weeks)
- Room and meals provided
- Cohort building opportunities
- Applications accepted Nov to March (site dependent)
- First-gen and underrepresented students are especially encouraged to apply.
- Competitive! Many students apply to multiple REU Sites.



First2 funded Hannah Petronek (Biochemistry) engaged in research at WVU and at an REU. These efforts led to receipt of an NSF-GRF. Hannah recently earned an MS degree.



Search REU Sites: <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/reu/search>

Activity: Search for REU Sites of interest to you and report out to the group.

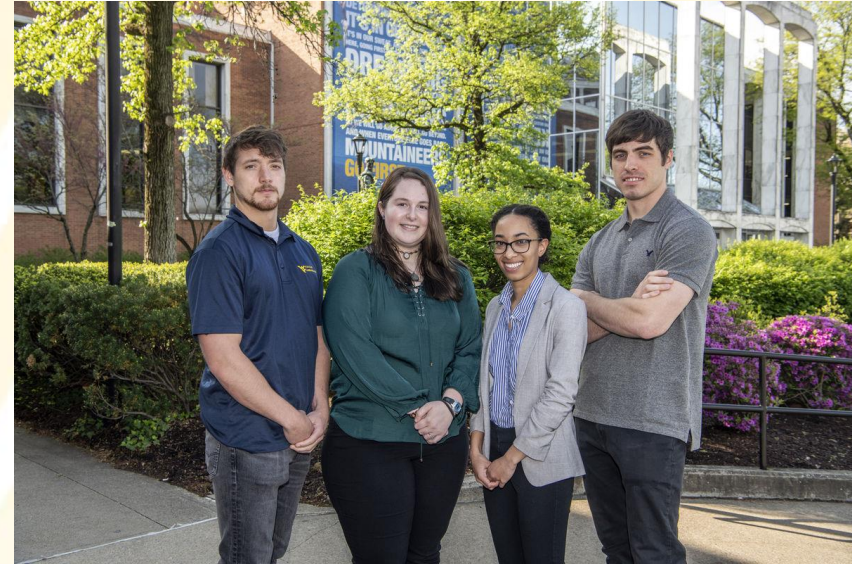


<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/reu/search>



NIST-Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (NIST SURF)

- **Mentored, full-time research at a national lab (NIST = National Institute of Standards and Technology)**
- Gaithersburg, MD; Boulder, CO; Charleston, SC
- Professional development
- Culminating research symposium
- Stipend (~\$7,810 for 11 weeks)
- Financial support for travel/housing
- Very competitive!
- Early application deadline (Jan 31, 2025)
- Apply through USA.jobs
- Can repeat the experience.



WVU's 2019 NIST SURF participants (left to right): Daniel Baker, Katrina Rupert, Oriana Ovide, and Chad Hite.



NIST SURF Info: <https://www.nist.gov/surf>

NIH College Summer Opportunity to Advance Research (C-SOAR) & Summer Internship Program (SIP)

- **Mentored, full-time research at NIH Institute/Center located on NIH campuses (inc. Bethesda, MD) (NIH = National Institute of Health)**
- Applications encouraged from underrepresented and diverse students in STEM/Healthcare fields
- Professional development – science skills, career development, and mentoring
- Stipend (~\$3,000 per month for 9 weeks)
- Early application deadline (Jan 8 & Feb 19, 2025)
- Apply through NIH Application Center



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Hollings Scholarship

- **Mentored, full-time summer research**
- Nationwide list of NOAA mentors
- Summer stipend (~\$7,000 for 10 weeks)
- Housing subsidy
- Two-year scholarship of up to \$9,500 per year
- Travel funds to attend NOAA mandatory events
- Very competitive!
- Early application deadline (Jan 31, 2025)
- Apply through NOAA Office of Education



**WVU's 2020 Hollings Scholarship
Awardee: Bethany Wager (Wildlife &
Fisheries)**



NOAA Hollings Scholarship Info: <https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/hollings-scholarship>

AmeriCorps

- **Volunteers who serve nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S.**
- Receive modest living allowance during service term
- Receive \$\$ for college or trade school
- Professional development



NASA WV Space Grant Consortium

- **Undergraduates are supported in broad disciplines that align with NASA interests.**
 - Undergraduate Scholarships (due end of Sept.)
 - Student Ambassador Program (due end of Sept.)
 - Summer Internships (due Feb 28, 2025)



NASA Space Grant Info:

<https://www.wvspacegrant.org/programs/college-students/>

Advanced Opportunities

Scholarships & Fellowships:

- Goldwater
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)



Goldwater Scholarship

- **Nationally competitive, very prestigious**
- Limited to four applicants per institution
- Institutional nomination (may be pre-institutional review prior to submission)
- Eligibility: SO or JR STEM majors; high GPA; U.S. Citizen; research focus/experience
- Applicant plans to attend graduate school for career in research
- Award is \$7,500 annually for 1-2 years (last in \$)

First2 supported **Ray King** (Physics) and **Marion Cahill** (Biology) are 2024 Goldwater scholars. **Continued** and **sustained engagement in research** from FR onward was crucial to their Goldwater award.



Goldwater Info: <https://goldwaterscholarship.gov/>

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

- **Nationally competitive, very prestigious**
- Unlimited number of applicants per institution
- Eligibility: SR STEM major or 1st/2nd year STEM graduate student
- Applicant must be attending or plan to attend graduate school.
- Research and STEM leadership/outreach equally important.
- Award is \$37,000 stipend annually (renewable, 5 yrs) & \$12,000 cost-of-attendance allowance.
- Applicants apply direct. National deadline is mid-late Oct each year.

First2 supported **Hannah Petronek** (Biochemistry) received an NSF GRF in 2022. Hannah's First2-related **leadership** aided Hannah in earning this award.



NSF GRF Info: <https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>

Other Opportunities

- Funding to assist with Study Abroad – Boren, Critical Language, Fulbright, Freeman, Gates Cambridge, Gilman, Knight-Hennessy, Marshall, Mitchell
- Prestigious Awards – Rhodes Scholarship, Truman, Udall, etc.

WVU Home

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STUDENTS ASPIRE TO BE CHANGE AGENTS

What do YOU aspire to do as a student at WVU? This video features three of the many WVU students who win competitive scholarships and fellowships each year. Watch them as they discuss how the opportunities they sought through the ASPIRE Office helped them develop as scholars and as global citizens. [Schedule an appointment](#) to find out more about the scholarships and fellowships that are right for you.

[Watch Video](#)



WVU ASPIRE Info: <https://aspire.wvu.edu/>

Opportunities to Present Research

Presentation Venues:

- Institutional
- URDC
- NCUR
- Disciplinary conferences



Opportunities to Present Research

- **Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol** – Held March 25, 2025, 9-11:30 am, WV State Capitol Rotunda. **Nov 22** abstract submission deadline. Present research to state legislators and make a difference on how legislators view education and research.
- **NCUR**: Nationwide undergraduate research conference. NCUR 2025, April 7-9, 2025 at the Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to present. **Dec 6** abstract submission deadline.



- 2025 URDC Abstract: <https://forms.gle/rKb8fBsFqBxJBZCZ6>
- 2025 NCUR Abstract: <https://www.cur.org/events-services/ncur/>

External Opportunities - Explore the WVU Office of Undergraduate Research Website

- ✓ UGR Home: <http://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu>
Home → Opportunities → External Opportunities
- ✓ Individual Listings & Search Engines

