

# ***Finding External STEM Opportunities***

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West Virginia University

*First2 Fall 2025 Virtual Conference  
November 2025*



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***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



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

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



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

- **Mentored, full-time research**
- **Professional development & culminating research symposium**
- Stipend (~\$5,000)
- 50+ students funded at WVU in Summer 2025.
- First-gen students are especially encouraged to apply.
- Applications open now and due **March 1** for Summer 2026.
- 20 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 an attorney, was supported in SURE at WVU.**



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

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**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)**
- Students from all demographics are 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>  
Applications on ETAP for many REU Sites: <https://etap.nsf.gov/applicant-info>

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



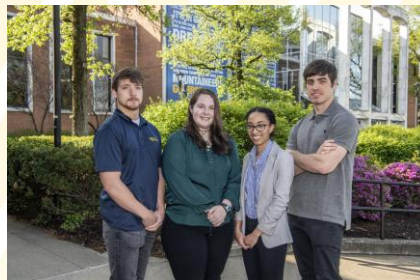
<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/reu/search>



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## ***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 (late Jan-early Feb)**
- 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>

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## ***NIH 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 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 or Feb**)
- Application opens in Nov
- Apply through NIH Application Center

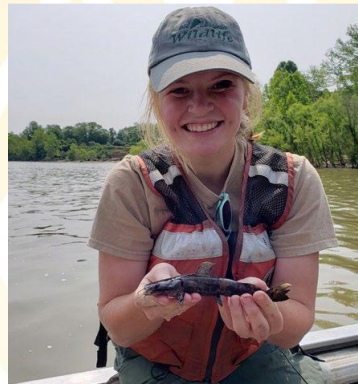


NIH SIP Info: <https://www.training.nih.gov/research-training/pb/sip/>

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## 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, 2026)**
- 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>

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## AmeriCorps

- **Volunteers who serve nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S.**
- Receive modest living allowance during service term
- Receive \$\$ for college or trade school (e.g., Segal Education Award, WV AmeriCorps Tuition Waiver)
- Professional development: hands-on project exp & leadership training
- Interested in exploring opportunities? See current listings at the My AmeriCorps portal:  
<https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/publicRequestSearch.do> (filter by state, program type (State/National, VISTA, NCCC), and area of interest (e.g., public health, environmental, community development, education))



**High Rocks has positions (spring and summer) open now!**  
AmeriCorps Info: <https://americorps.gov/>

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## ***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 (**check back for summer 2026**)



NASA Space Grant Info:

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

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## ***Advanced Opportunities***

### **Scholarships & Fellowships:**

- Goldwater
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
- DoD NDSEG
- Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP)
- National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
- SREB Doctoral Scholars Program



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## 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) were 2024 Goldwater scholars. **Continued** and **sustained engagement in research** from FR onward was crucial to their Goldwater award.



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

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## NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

- **Nationally competitive, very prestigious**
- Unlimited number of applicants per institution
- Eligibility: SR STEM major or 1<sup>st</sup> 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.
- Receive NSF-GRF **Honorable Mention** in last 3 years? Institutional EPSCoR GFP ([EGFP](#)) may fund.

First2 supported **Hannah Petronek** (Biochemistry) and **Rachel Morris** (Biology) received NSF GRFs in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Their First2-related **leadership** aided them in earning this award.



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

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## **National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship**

- **Nationally competitive, very prestigious**
- Supports U.S. citizens in receiving doctoral degrees in science & engineering disciplines of military importance.
- Applicant must be attending or plan to attend graduate school (1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> year).
- Award is \$40,800 stipend annually (renewable, 3 yrs) with some professional travel \$.
- Institutional health insurance and full tuition and fees are covered.
- Applicants apply direct. National deadline is **Nov 1** of each year.

WVU BS Chemistry Alumnus **Hayden Moran** received a DoD NDSEG in 2023. This fellowship supports Hayden's graduate research at Texas A&M.



DoD NDSEG Info: <https://ndseg.org/>

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## **Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP)**

- **Competitive. Offered by the Army, Navy and Air Force.**
- The U.S. Military pays for tuition, provides a living stipend, reimburses for books, equipment and supplies toward health professional training.
- Requires 45-day annual training period
- Attend officer training for specific Service
- Applicants apply direct.

WVU BS Chemistry Alumnus **Sophia (Eiley) Massinople** received a HPSP in 2023. This scholarship supports Eiley's attendance in Dental School at the South Carolina College of Dental Medicine.



HPSP Info: <https://www.medicinethemilitary.com/>

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## ***National Health Service Corps (NHSC)***

- **Supports medical, dental, and behavioral health providers through scholarships and loan repayment programs.**
- Scholarship recipients commit to providing primary care health services in shortage areas.
- Potentially serve 2-4 years in shortage area upon graduation with degree.
- Tuition and eligible fees are covered. Monthly stipend is provided.
- Must be U.S. citizen or U.S. national.
- Must be in or accepted into health professional school.



NHSC Info: <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov/>

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## ***Southern Regional Education Board (SREB): Doctoral Scholars Program***

- **Supports students in doctoral studies in the southern region (AL, AR, GA, KY, LA, MD, SC, VA, and WV).**
- Been admitted to or in Ph.D. program and have not begun second year of doctoral study.
- Planning to become college or university professor. Goal is to increase faculty diversity.
- 3-5 year package. \$20,000 annual stipend for 3 years and two years of institutional support.
- Tuition and fees waiver (if university allowed)
- Professional development and covered conference attendance.
- Application opens in January, and applications are due **March 31**.

First2 supported **Keyzar Dominguez** (Biochemistry) received an SREB in 2025 to support three years of graduate school for PhD in Chemistry (research in chemistry education) at West Virginia University.

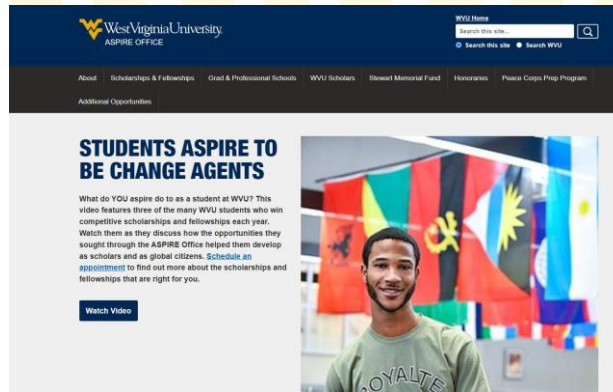


**SREB Doctoral Scholars Program Info:**  
<https://www.sreb.org/types-awards>

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

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## Opportunities to Present Research

### Presentation Venues:

- Institutional
- URDC
- NCUR
- Disciplinary conferences



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## Opportunities to Present Research

- [Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol](#) – Held Feb 19, 2026, WV State Capitol Rotunda. **Nov 21** 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 2026, April 13-15, 2026 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in Virginia. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to present. **Dec 5** abstract submission deadline.



- 2026 URDC Abstract: Click [here](#)
- 2026 NCUR Abstract: <https://www.cur.org/events-services/ncur/>

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## External Opportunities - Explore the WVU Office of Undergraduate Research Website

- ✓ UGR Home: <http://undergraduateresearch.wvu.edu>  
Home → Opportunities → [WVU](#) & [External Opportunities](#)
- ✓ Individual Listings & Search Engines



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