

The Power of UW Undergraduate Research

Kris Andrews Assistant Vice President for UW Federal Relations April 2013 Board of Regents, UW- La Crosse





Undergraduate Research Positively Impacts Our Stakeholders





Students

- They stay in school.
- They graduate.
- They secure employment in the workforce or enroll in graduate or professional schools.
- They put classroom knowledge into practice.
- They have enhanced problem-solving, communication, and technical skills.
- They have increased self confidence.





Faculty

- Helps attract the best and brightest faculty who see that UW values both teaching and research.
- Helps provide faculty leadership roles and broader responsibilities at their institution.
- Helps promote their value, especially important with compensation challenges.
- Makes them part of the state's solutions
 - The Wisconsin Idea.





Institutions

- Helps recruit students who want research opportunities and working relationships with faculty mentors.
- Improves student retention, which saves the institutions time and money.
- Helps support students with diverse backgrounds.
 - In fact, educational gains with underrepresented groups are even higher than with majority groups.
- Keeps institutions competitive locally, nationally, and internationally.





Wisconsin

- Students who engage in research have critical thinking skills, which leads to innovation and entrepreneurship
 - Wisconsin's newest leaders.
- Prepares students to participate in shaping Wisconsin's economy in key areas like cutting-edge research, innovative business models, and entrepreneurial excellence.
- The economic value UW's research holds for the state is significant and can only be improved by supporting undergraduate research.





UW's Work with CUR Has Produced Tangible Results

The UW System was one of two Systems in the nation awarded a grant.

Activities at the campuses have included:

- Developing campus plans to help move undergraduate research forward.
- Addressing the question "What can we do as a System that we cannot as individual campuses?"
- Finding campus-and system-level ways to support and sustain highly effective research environments.







Making UW System <u>the</u> National Leader

As a result of these workshops, the UW System created a vision statement:

"Our mission is to support the campuses in advancing the goal of making the UW System the national leader in undergraduate research for the academic and professional success of our students and the benefit of our communities."

> Questions? Kris Andrews kandrews@uwsa.edu (608) 262-3362

