

Project Title: “Learning from a Course-Based Undergraduate Research Experience”

Steven N. Girard, Professor of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin – Whitewater

Course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) have become an indispensable tool within undergraduate STEM education. CUREs provide accessible, substantive, and formative undergraduate research to students who might otherwise not participate due to limitations with work, commute, or family. Here, we present the design, assessment framework, implementation, and long-term outcomes of CUREs at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, a regional 4-year comprehensive university with a large 1st-gen student population. CURE design considers student accessibility, learning outcomes with emphasis on research/teaching training, utilization of literature analysis, and assessment of student agency. We assess learning and scientific capital through student feedback obtained 6-12 months following the conclusion of the CURE course. Our findings demonstrate the ways in which CUREs can traverse complex programmatic landscapes to broadly transform undergraduate education.