

COE Representative to Undergraduate Research Conference Committee

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From: Wenger, Gina L
Sent: Monday, July 21, 2008 11:02 AM
To: Sandell, Elizabeth Jill
Cc: Vorlicek, Trenton P
Subject: URC Steering Committee Invitation

Dear Dr. Sandell,

The Undergraduate Research Conference Steering Committee would like to invite you as the representative for the College of Education for the 2008-2010 committee term. Should you accept, you will be joined by existing College of Education representative, Dr. Rick Auger as he completes his second year.

The URC Steering Committee is one of the most exciting committees on campus, as our activities assist undergraduate research and directly impact student's academic lives. Last year's conference was the largest thus far, including over 200 student participants and awarding over \$45,000 to fund student research! Steering Committee members are responsible for the judging of student grant proposals. Last year we received almost 100 grant proposals, coming from every college in the University. Judging takes a considerable amount of time and as the topics are broad, it is a challenging task. However, judges are able to get a much more informed idea of the many different research agendas across campus and often the topics are very exciting!

Another task taken by the URC Steering Committee is the conference. Although it happens late in April, this conference takes several months to plan and organize. Members share responsibilities by taking on "sub-committees" where they feel they can help most. These sub-committees include: Public Relations, Donations, Journal Editing, Copy Editing, Abstract Reviews, Scheduling, Recruiting Judges, and assisting with the information table at the conference. Also, it is common for Steering Committee members to mentor student researchers for the conference.

Finally, we ask that a few Steering Committee members take time to help with the editing and publication of our Student Research Journal, posted online each summer following the conference. This is headed by our returning member, Barbara Bergman.

As you can see, there are many different tasks. However, the URC is growing and becoming a very strong aspect of research at Minnesota State University, Mankato. We have received strong support from the entire campus community and we look forward to expanding even further in the future. I hope you will consider joining us to ensure that the College of Education has an even more active role in the URC. I know that your personal passion for research and student achievement would benefit the committee greatly! This is why you

have been selected by the committee and I hope you will consider this invitation as both a challenge and an opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gina L. M. Wenger, Ph.D.
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“Any form of art is a form of power; it has impact, it can affect change, it can not only move us, it makes us move.” -Ossie Davis (1917-2005)