

The RSCA program will support a number of students to attend the 24th annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (<http://www.umt.edu/ncur2010/>). Any undergraduate student with a research or creative project and a faculty mentor may apply. **The deadline for abstract submissions is Dec. 4, 2009.**

We request that you forward this information to all students who are participating in research and creative projects. Last year, students from biology, chemistry, geology, and history represented New Paltz NCUR 2009. The cost of travel will be reimbursed as per New York State and campus guidelines.

“The National Conferences on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), established in 1987, is dedicated to promoting undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative activity in **all fields of study** by sponsoring an annual conference for students. Unlike meetings of academic professional organizations, this gathering of young scholars welcomes presenters from all institutions of higher learning and from all corners of the academic curriculum. Through this annual conference, NCUR creates a unique environment for the celebration and promotion of undergraduate student achievement, provides models of exemplary research and scholarship, and helps to improve the state of undergraduate education. Students presenting at the National Conference will have the option of doing an oral or poster presentation.”

Attendance at this conference will be a rewarding and resume building experience for the student. The conference provides a profession atmosphere that will enable the student to receive feedback and learn about opportunities available to them after graduation.

“The critical feedback that I was able to get for my research allowed me see the strengths and weaknesses of my methods and presentation, and just the act of presenting my research to such a broad audience in itself allowed me to more fully conceptualize and contextualize my research in way that has allowed me to have a greater understanding and appreciation of it.”

Igor Gembitski (Biology, 2008), attendee of the 22nd NCUR

To be eligible for the NCUR travel support, the student must:

- Be a registered undergraduate in the spring 2010 semester
- Have a faculty mentor
- Be able to attend the conference from April 15-17, 2010 (the student will be responsible for notifying professors of class absences).

- Prepare and submit a 250-300 word abstract (including title and authors etc.)
- follow the instructions below regarding the abstract registration process

The deadline for abstract submissions is Dec. 4, 2009.

A committee composed of University of Montana faculty will review the abstracts. You can search the 2008-9 NCUR Abstract Archive for examples of abstracts in your discipline at <https://www.umt.edu/ce/secure/ncur2010/archive/>. Abstract guidelines are also provided at <http://www.umt.edu/ncur2010/Abstracts/one-col-page.aspx>

If selected, the student must attend a meeting (time, etc. TBD in early February) to fill out the appropriate paperwork for travel fund reimbursement (no travel advances will be provided).

Steps:

1. Well before the Dec 4th deadline, the student should prepare an abstract and request feedback from the faculty mentor.
2. The student can then submit the abstract at <https://www.umt.edu/ce/secure/ncur2010/applicant/> (Create New Abstract link)
3. Choose oral or poster presentation
4. Please choose State University of New York, New Paltz for the institution name.
5. ** this step is necessary to be eligible for the travel award****You will need to provide the Undergraduate Research Office Coordinator Information:
Coordinator's name: Dr. Maureen Morrow
Email: morrowm@newpaltz.edu
Title: Assoc. Prof.
Phone; 845-257-3776
Fax: 845-257-3791
6. DO NOT make any payments until after you have been selected for the travel award.

The NCUR abstract selection will be announced on Jan 22, 2010. The RSCA committee will meet before the end of January to select the students who will receive travel funds. The students will be selected with preference given to individuals who have not previously had the opportunity to present at a conference and with the intention of supporting a diversity of projects.

Awardees will be notified early in February and a meeting will be arranged to formalize the award process.

Please direct any questions to Maureen Morrow, RSCA Director, X3776, morrowm@newpaltz.edu.