

Presidential Inauguration event: Student Research and Creative Activity Showcase

As part of the inaugural celebration, the Student Research and Creative Activity Showcase will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2012 (approximately 6-7:15pm). This showcase will be coordinated with the Spring Distinguished Speaker Debra Humphreys and Faculty Panel Discussion. The Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities program (RSCA) is seeking nominations for students to present research/ creative activities posters at this event. The details provided below can also be found at: <http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/usr.html> (see January 2012 information).

This event will provide an outstanding opportunity for students and faculty to interact with former New Paltz Presidents, alumni, community members, peers, and others. Students will gain experience presenting the products of research/ creative activities and feedback from attendees. The President is proud of our students' accomplishments and views these experiences as an important component of liberal education. Presenting students will provide first-hand knowledge of the learning experiences associated with the research and creative activities to attendees.

We are asking faculty to nominate a student (or a student research group) who has worked on a significant research project. Both graduate and undergraduate students may be nominated. Recent graduates may also be nominated.

The nomination letter must address the following characteristics of the student (s):

- ability to attend the April 12th event (preferably with faculty mentor);
- ability to produce an final abstract/ project description by March 22, 2012;
- ability to describe the project (including process) to individuals not familiar with the field of study;
- ability to explain the relevance and impact of the project to broader communities;
- ability to describe the project in a poster format/ appropriately sized display (instructions: use the SRS guidelines at http://www.newpaltz.edu/research/srs/poster_instructions.html);
- ability to communicate how the project provided a learning experience distinct from a classroom experience;
- ability to understand her/his role as a representative of SUNY New Paltz;
- willingness to have the abstract/ project description printed in a commemorative document;
- willingness to work with mentor on preparation of a brief oral presentation of the poster ('elevator talk')
- representativeness of the diversity our student population; and,
- Hometown (as a representation of diversity).

The nomination should also include an abstract/ project description (no more than 300 words) with a 1-2 sentence description of the relation to liberal education (http://www.aacu.org/leap/what_is_liberal_education.cfm)

The RSCA Advisory Board will review the nomination letters and choose the research projects (~15) that will be invited to present. Alternates will also be selected and invited to attend should additional poster space become available. Recommendations will be made to the President's office and the students will be informed of their selection status before March 15th. Additional information will be provided in the acceptance response. Projects will be selected to represent the diversity of disciplines and diversity of student backgrounds (including geographic). The quality of the project, the connections to liberal education, and the relation of the project to broader communities will also be considered.

Nomination letters should be sent to rsca@newpaltz.edu with 'inauguration' in the subject line. The nomination letter must be saved in a pdf format and must contain the student(s) email information and hometown. Supplementary information will not be considered. Letters are due on March 1, 2012.