Undergraduate Research has been shown to increase student’s interest and skills in all disciplines, contribute to higher retention rates and enrollment in graduate school, and support students’ personal and professional growth. Currently only about 1 in 5 ECU students carry out undergraduate research projects in any field of study. The Office of Undergraduate Research has a goal to double the number of students conducting mentored undergraduate research in the next five years. In order to achieve this goal, we encourage participation by students who have not traditionally been engaged. These include but are not limited to non-STEM majors, students from racial and ethnic minorities and first generation college students.

Undergraduate Research Minis are $500 awards made to students in spring or first summer session, to support mentored research projects. No funds for materials are allowed. Applications from students in all majors are welcome. Priority will be given to students from majors in education, business, communications and the arts, criminal justice and other social science disciplines, humanities disciplines, as well as mathematics and computer science.

- Eligible students are freshman, sophomore or juniors who have not previously been an URCA awardee with a 2.5 or greater GPA. Part-time students are eligible. Honors students are not eligible.

- The student should have identified a mentor and have a project in mind. The application consists of a series of questions about the project.

- Students are encouraged to fill out the application with their mentors.

- If two students are on a project, there is a possibility of an additional stipend. Students will need to describe the roles of both students on the team within the application.

- Mentors will be contacted to approve the application, but no recommendation is required.

- Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Last date to apply is March 19.

- Approval is on a rolling basis. Students will be contacted by email and payment will be in the form of an undergraduate research assistantship paid through the mentor’s department.

- Successful awardees will be encouraged to apply for an URCA award, with funding of up to $2000.

- Awardees will be expected to submit a report due in September. Details will be given at the time of the award.

Link to application: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/cef4f3215fc647fc8c8e737b4902a120