

Increasing Integrative Learning Through High-Impact Research Experiences Throughout the Undergraduate Curriculum

Program Innovation Award

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This project will create a sustainable model for peer research coaches integrated in courses to increase campus-wide participation in high-impact, integrative academic research. The peer research coach model supports faculty to grow and strengthen their curricula. In our current model, peer research coaches work 30 hours in a semester to support students' hands-on research projects by holding office hours and team meetings with undergraduate students. Our pilot research study on this model suggests that student learning outcomes are improved through integrative, high-impact research experiences with undergraduate students. In the first year of this two-year project, faculty will recruit students for ten research coach positions in person or through a short Qualtrics online application. Two of these research coaches will be designated as Lead Research Coaches. The peer coach experience will integrate high-impact classroom experiences and research experiences into one leadership experience. This initiative is especially instrumental for students in the classes that are non-STEM and for transfer students.