Enhancing Undergraduate Research Through Campus-wide Collaborations

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ABSTRACT
The University of North Texas (UNT) is the largest and most comprehensive research and doctoral degree-granting institution in the North Texas area (DFW Metroplex) and the flagship of the UNT System. Enrollment for fall of 2013 was 36,168 (29,481 undergraduates) and is projected to surpass 40,000 by 2015. UNT is the fourth largest university in the state of Texas and 24th-largest in the nation. The university’s 2012-2017 strategic plan outlines the process for providing the best undergraduate research education in Texas to include rigorous and innovative programs that enhance the relationships between teaching and learning. Undergraduate research supports the university’s goals by uniting teaching and learning with research and scholarly activity. For more than 20 years, UNT has had dedicated undergraduate research programs. These programs collaborate with one another and other campus entities to provide undergraduates with comprehensive and significant research experiences. The UNT Honors College, the McNair Scholars Program, the Terry Scholars Program, the Emerald Eagle Scholars Program, discipline specific REUs, and the Office for Nationally Competitive Scholarships are just a few of the stakeholders in UNT’s efforts. In this presentation, we will discuss collaborative classes, presentation opportunities, a refereed student journal, and successful scholarship and fellowship achievement processes.