

University of Missouri System
Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol
April, 2020

Call for Nominations for Student Ambassadors

The University of Missouri System is seeking nominations from faculty members for undergraduates to serve as Ambassadors to share their university research experiences with state lawmakers in Jefferson City for Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol.

The purpose of this event is to demonstrate to lawmakers in Jefferson City the unique opportunities undergraduate students have to participate with faculty in research at the University of Missouri. Many lawmakers do not differentiate between regional schools and public research institutions, and we hope this opportunity to showcase our undergraduates involved in research will help make the distinction. We will also use this event to underscore higher education's role in developing educated citizens and preparing a work force with the necessary skills to further the economic growth of the state.

We are seeking students who have been significantly involved in the research enterprise of the university either with their own project or through meaningful involvement with an on-going faculty project.

To qualify for participation in this event, nominees must meet the following criteria:

- Students must be undergraduates at the University of Missouri during the 2019-2020 Academic Year.
- Parent of student must be residents of the State of Missouri.
- Research must have been completed under the guidance of a University of Missouri faculty member.
- Research projects must follow the methodology of the appropriate academic discipline.
- The research project must be of sufficient quality to be presented at a professional academic meeting.

Successful nominees should also be able to convey their experience and enthusiasm to state representatives, senators, and other state officials in a poster session. We are seeking students from a broad range of disciplines. ***We are especially interested in projects that relate to the economic development of Missouri and issues important to the state legislature (e.g., education, health, agriculture, transportation and infrastructure, social services).***

Selection of Undergraduate Ambassadors will be based on geographical distribution, relevance of the project to the state, quality of the project, and distribution among the four campuses.

Students selected to serve as Undergraduate Research Ambassadors will be asked to attend planning meetings with The Office of Undergraduate Studies in preparation for the event. Planning meetings will begin in **January 2020**. Meeting topics will include presentation skills, how the event works, how to meet and greet lawmakers, and other protocol. Students will also be asked to prepare or revise their poster and abstract for a lay audience and to prepare a brief presentation on their work suitable for delivering the “take home message” in a few minutes. Posters will be printed in **February 2020**.

Students will also communicate with their Senator and Representative about the event in advance by mail and will visit those lawmakers during their visit to the capitol in April. Parents of Ambassadors will be invited by President Choi to attend the event in Jefferson City. Students will have the opportunity to tour the state capitol and to have their photo taken with their local lawmakers to send to their hometown newspaper. Transportation to and from Jefferson City will be provided, along with a box lunch. Letters explaining the student’s absence from class can be sent to appropriate instructors upon request.

Nominations from the Rolla Campus are due by **December 6, 2019** to:

Dedie Wilson
Experiential Learning Office
Email: byfieldr@mst.edu

Attached is the application form which must be completed and returned to the email address above. The Office of Academic Support will screen applications for academic discipline representation, geographical diversity within the state, and appropriateness of the research topic. Faculty nominators are encouraged to request the assistance of their nominee in completing the application form.

More information can be found at, [Undergraduate Research Day at the Capitol](#).

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Cawlfeld
Vice Provost of Academic Support
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