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Undergraduate Research Opportunities

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Utah State University

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UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY · LOGAN, UTAH 84322

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
September 2, 1975

GLEN L. TAGGART
PRESIDENT

TO: The Undergraduate Student Body

SUBJECT: Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities

Dear Students:

We have hoped that more undergraduate students at Utah State University would take advantage of the tremendous resources our faculty have to offer outside the classroom through their on-going research and creative activities. We made this a challenge to the USU team that attended the Danforth Foundation Workshop during the summer of 1974, and they came back with a plan to encourage, enlarge, and systematize collaboration between faculty and undergraduates. It was the team's belief, which I share, that the first-hand experience of search and discovery for students engaged in serious projects with faculty would benefit both partners in the teaching-learning relationship.

It seems to me that Undergraduate Research and Creative Opportunities (URCO) at USU may provide a number of positive results. Among these are the following:

1. another mode of teaching and advising (like an apprenticeship or mentor relationship) that interested faculty and students can choose;
2. more relevant and stimulating learning for some who feel participating in the real world is meaningful;
3. additional assistance to faculty in developing their scholarly pursuits and professional interests;
4. the generating force for more research and creative effort;
5. the vehicle to uncover and develop new research and creative talent;
6. a means to increase industrial ties and attract additional funds from off campus; and
7. improved community relations.

An experiment with URCO by the Colleges of Agriculture and of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences proved successful in the spring of 1975; and other colleges, principally Science, Engineering, and Natural Resources have done similar things in the past. We now attempt to launch URCO on a university-wide basis during 1975-76.

Please permit me to encourage your involvement in this worthwhile learning experience.

Sincerely yours,

Glen L. Taggart
President