

The Importance of Undergraduate Research: *Publications in Geneseo and Beyond*

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Benefits of Undergraduate Publishing

Undergraduate research helps students gain hands-on experience in their respective areas of study. It primes them for their future careers in STEM fields, psychology, and various other fields.

Undergraduates that are apart of research teams, gives these students the opportunity to be a part of a work-like environment, and gain hands on experience. These students can gain recognition for not only themselves, but their institution. For example, four bio-engineering students at Emory University have won the elite Goldwater Scholarship two years in a row. Their research experience has allowed them to gain national recognition and receive scholarships to help pay their way through undergraduate school (Hunt 2020).

Undergraduate research “promotes the development of a community of scholars on campus, deepens faculty relationships with alumni, and provides the academic community with a shared sense of purpose and attainment” (Mariani et al. 2013).

The Proceedings of GREAT Day

There are various undergraduate research and internship opportunities on SUNY Geneseo’s campus. *The Proceedings of GREAT Day*, is a published work compiled of some of the best submissions of these opportunities, that are featured on Geneseo’s GREAT Day—a day where the students can showcase their research projects from various fields ranging from dance to biology.

The Proceedings of GREAT Day is published as both a digital open access journal on KnightScholar as well as a physical copy for purchase on Amazon. Student authors are selected by faculty every year for inclusion in the journal after their work is showcased at GREAT Day, and published the following year. The journal is constructed by two student editors as well as a faculty advisor, Dr. Jonathan Grunert, and a publishing supervisor, Alison Brown.

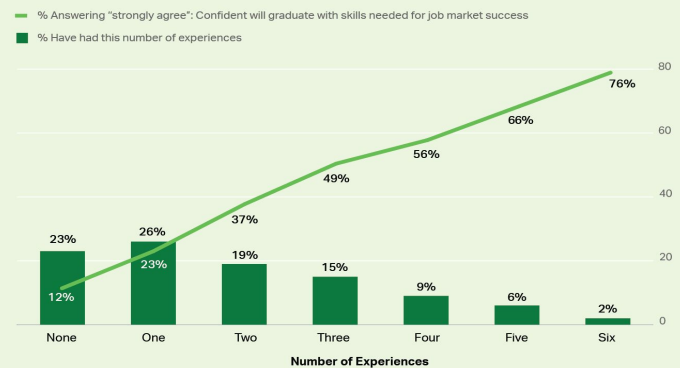
This work showcases not only the academic successes of the campus, but of their bright and diligent undergraduate students. It provides insight into what Geneseo’s campus is capable of on a research and intellectual standpoint, while also promoting academic excellence.

Experiential Learning and Research Journals

Experiential learning is one of the most consistent predictors of post-undergraduate student confidence. In a poll conducted by Strada Education Network and Gallup of 32,000 U.S. undergrads, students were asked about six key college experiences and their level of confidence for ability on the job market (Crabtree 2020). Half of the criteria were related to positive student-mentor experiences and the other half related to experiential learning (which often go hand-in-hand; half of student’s with more than 3 of 6 experiences reported confidence for their prospects (Crabtree 2020).

Student research has a large hand in experiential learning, and a key way to encourage students to take on these longform projects and hands-on learning is to make sure these opportunities are visible to students. Research journals are an important way to showcase student work and increase quality of work (Mariani et al. 2013). Having the research you developed, likely over the course of a semester, a year, or longer, showcased is a rewarding experience that encourages working on more projects in the future, and serves as a great resume booster.

Students' Job Optimism Rises With Key Collegiate Experiences



"Number of experiences" reflects the number of student support/experiential learning experiences students strongly agree they have had.

STRADA-GALLUP COLLEGE STUDENT SURVEY



References:

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