2018 OUR Summer Undergraduate Research Funding Scholarship Recipients

The OUR Summer Undergraduate Research Funding program (OUR SURF) support undergraduate students as they work on research, scholarship, entrepreneurial, performance or visual art projects in the summer months. Funding for these scholarships is provided by several colleges and campus units.

**COLLEGE- SPECIFIC AWARDS**

**School of Allied Health Sciences Sponsored Awards ($1500)**

**Recipient:** Shaun Andersen, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences  
**Major:** Kinesiological Sciences  
**Project Title:** Ground Reaction Force Production of a Vertical Jump vs. Back Tuck  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. John Mercer, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

**Recipient:** Shelby Dopudja, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences  
**Major:** Kinesiological Sciences  
**Project Title:** Posture and Core Strength  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Julia Freedman Silvernail, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

**Recipient:** Mufaro Hungwe, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences  
**Major:** Kinesiological Sciences  
**Project Title:** The Influence of Shoes on Muscle Activity During the Start and Drive Phases of the 100m Sprint  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. John Mercer, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

**Lee Business School Sponsored Awards ($1500)**

**Recipient:** Mary Blankenship, Department of Economics & Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
**Major:** Economics & Chemistry, with a minor in Mathematical Sciences  
**Project Title:** Chemical and Electronic Properties of the CdS/Cu(In,Ga)Se2 Interface with Varying Ga/(Ga+In) Absorber Ratios  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Clemens Heske, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Recipient:** Ei Myint, Department of Economics & Department of Psychology  
**Major:** Economics & Psychology, with a minor in Mathematical Sciences  
**Project Title:** Predictors of Adolescents’ Potential STEM Major Interests  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Rachael Robnett, Department of Psychology
College of Fine Arts Sponsored Awards ($1500)

Recipient: Daniel Cihigoyenetche, School of Music  
Major: Music  
Project Title: Feasibility for the Use of Laryngeal Ultrasound (LUS) in the Voice Pedagogy Laboratory  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Kimberly James, School of Music

Recipient: Melissa Del Rosario, Department of Film & School of Architecture  
Major: Film & Architecture  
Project Title: Now What Feature Film  
Faculty Research Mentor: Prof. Warren Cobb, Department of Film

Recipient: Holly Haywood, Department of Art  
Major: Art, with a minor in Japanese Studies  
Project Title: Rose Colored Glasses (Art Installation)  
Faculty Research Mentor: Prof. Dave Rowe, Department of Art

Recipient: Alina Lindquist, Department of Art & Department of Anthropology  
Major: Art History & Anthropology  
Project Title: Untitled  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Karen Harry, Department of Anthropology

Recipient: Zully Mejia, Department of Art  
Major: Art, with a minor in Global Entrepreneurship  
Project Title: Entry: Using Art as a Medium of Cultural Influence  
Faculty Research Mentor: Ms. Alisha Kerlin, Marjorie Barrick Museum

Recipient: Nicole Weber, Department of Art & Department of Sociology  
Major: Art, Art History & Sociology  
Project Title: The Dome  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Susanna Newbury, Department of Art

Recipient: Marlee Witt, School of Music  
Major: Music  
Project Title: Untitled  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Jonathan Lee, School of Music

College of Liberal Arts Sponsored Awards ($1000)

Recipient: Jacob Cox, Department of Political Science  
Major: Political Science  
Project Title: Causal Mechanisms of Government Responses to NGO Activity  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Steven Landis, Department of Political Science
**Recipient**: Esmeralda Cruz Lopez, Department of Sociology & IGES  
**Major**: Sociology & Gender and Sexuality Studies  
**Project Title**: (Working Title) How do Staff and Faculty Perceive Resources for Undocumented Students?  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Anna C. Smedley-López, College of Liberal Arts Office of the Dean

**College of Liberal Arts Sponsored Awards ($500)**

**Recipient**: Kassandra Andicochea, History Department  
**Major**: History  
**Project Title**: Research for East Coast/West Coast: A History of the American Fashion Industry  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Deirdre Clemente, Department of History

**Recipient**: Taisiya Fridman, Department of Psychology  
**Major**: Psychology  
**Project Title**: Reinventing the Hyperdrive  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. James Hyman, Department of Psychology

**Recipient**: Deisy Landeros, Department of Anthropology  
**Major**: Anthropology, with a minor in Spanish  
**Project Title**: Dog Attitudes within Urban Mexican-American Communities  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Shelly Volsche, Academic Success Center

**Recipient**: Jared Leslie, Department of Psychology  
**Major**: Psychology  
**Project Title**: 10 Seconds Around the World: A Cross Cultural Study on Tempo Perception  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Erin Hannon, Department of Psychology

**Recipient**: Amanda Mozingo, Department of Anthropology & School of Life Sciences  
**Major**: Anthropology & Biological Sciences  
**Project Title**: Epigenetics and Food Insecurity in Nevada  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Levent Atici, Department of Anthropology

**Recipient**: Sandra Perez, Department of Sociology  
**Major**: Sociology, with a minor in Biological Sciences  
**Project Title**: Las Vegas Syndrome?  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Si Jung Kim, Department of Entertainment Engineering

**Recipient**: Alexander Valle, Department of English & Department of World Languages  
**Major**: English & French  
**Project Title**: The Formation of a Trans-Dasein: Existential Phenomenology in Cixous Angst and The Third Body  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Jarret Keene, Department of English
Recipient: Reese Zavala, Department of Political Science
Major: Political Science, with a minor in History
Project Title: Generational Preferences for Small and Extremist Parties in Post-Communist versus Western Europe
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Christian Jensen, Department of Political Sciences

College of Sciences Sponsored Awards ($1500)

Recipient: Clarisa Del Toro Contreras, Department of Geoscience
Major: Geology
Project Title: Magnesium Isotope Investigation of Hawaiian Lavas
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Shichun Huang, Department of Geoscience

Recipient: Alicia Salisbury, School of Life Sciences
Major: Biological Sciences
Project Title: Optimization of bacteriophage genome annotation
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Philippos Tsourkas, School of Life Sciences

Recipient: Zoe Wilbur, Department of Geoscience
Major: Geology
Project Title: Aubrite and Enstatite Chondrite Impact Melt Meteorites as Potential Analogs to Mercury
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Arya Udry, Department of Geoscience

College of Sciences Sponsored Awards ($1000)

Recipient: Dylan Durkee, Department of Physics and Astronomy
Major: Physics
Project Title: Exploration of Manganese Disulfide Phases and the Search for Superconductivity
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Ashkan Salamat, Department of Physics and Astronomy

Recipient: Emily Gelbart, Department of Geosciences
Major: Earth and Environmental Science
Project Title: Evaluating Long-term Change in Soil Seed Banks, Fertile Islands, and Rare Plant Communities in the Eastern Mojave Desert
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Scott Abella, School of Life Sciences

Honors College Sponsored Awards ($1500)

Recipient: Marie Louisa Heske, School of Life Sciences
Major: Preprofessional Biomedical Sciences, with a double minor in Spanish & Business Administration
Project Title: A Closer Look at the MicroRNA of Cancerous Breast Cells Caused by HPV 16 and 18
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Karl Kingsley, UNLV School of Dental Medicine
William F. Harrah College of Hospitality Sponsored Awards ($1500)

**Recipient:** Jennifer Jaimes, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality  
**Major:** Hospitality Management, with a minor in Chinese  
**Project Title:** Exploring the Influence of Hotel Technology Amenities on Booking Decisions: A Focus on Generation Z  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Mehmet Erdem, Department of Resort, Gaming, and Golf Management

Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering Awards ($1500)

**Recipient:** Reiner Dizon, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
**Major:** Computer Engineering, with a minor in Computer Science  
**Project Title:** Prosthetic Instrumentation  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Sarah Harris, Department of Computer Science

**Recipient:** Elizabeth Heider, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
**Major:** Electrical Engineering  
**Project Title:** Traumatic Brain Injury Sensor Research  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Venkatesan Muthukumar, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

**Recipient:** Jessica Mcilvaine, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction  
**Major:** Civil Engineering  
**Project Title:** Three dimensional printed in vivo electrophysiological recording device  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. James Hyman, Department of Psychology

**Recipient:** Shannon Montoya-Curtin, Department of Computer Science  
**Major:** Computer Science  
**Project Title:** Ground Reaction Forces of the Back Tuck  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. John Mercer, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

**Recipient:** Tristan Osorio, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction  
**Major:** Civil Engineering  
**Project Title:** Steel Infrastructure Corrosion Repair through Additive Manufacturing  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Ryan Sherman, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction
CAMPUS-WIDE AWARDS

Office of the Executive Vice President & Provost Sponsored Awards ($1000)

Recipient: Hector Aviles, School of Life Sciences
Major: Biological Sciences
Project Title: Rescuing a Lysogenic P. Larvae Cell Line Through the Addition of a Functional Lytic Plasmid
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Christy Strong, School of Life Sciences

Recipient: Leopold Falkensammer, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction
Major: Civil Engineering
Project Title: Folded Plate Simple-Span Steel Bridge Design
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Ryan J. Sherman, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction

Recipient: Paulyna Garcia, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction
Major: Civil Engineering
Project Title: Investigation of High-Mast Lighting Tower Large-Amplitude Vibrations Causing Premature Fatigue Failure
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Ryan J. Sherman, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction

Recipient: Natalie Johns, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Major: Biochemistry
Project Title: Preparation and Characterization of Trivalent Metal Complexes Coordinated to FcCOO- and DTBbpv Ligands
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Frederic Poineau, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

Recipient: Arlaine Sanchez, Department of Geoscience
Major: Geology
Project Title: Snow Algae as an Analogue for Habitability on Cryospheric Regions on Mars
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Elisabeth Hausrath, Department of Geoscience

Economic Development Sponsored Award ($1500)

Recipient: Rolando Corley Melton, William F. Harrah College of Hospitality
Major: Hospitality
Project Title: Examining Esports Play, Consumption, and Gambling Behaviors
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Brett Abarbanel, International Gaming Institute
Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada (CSUN) Sponsored Awards ($1000)

**Recipient:** Camille Catelo, School of Nursing  
**Major:** Nursing  
**Project Title:** Naturally Occurring Asbestos and its Health-effects on the Population of Southern Nevada  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Sean Neiswenter, School of Life Sciences

**Recipient:** Edward Dakay, School of Life Sciences  
**Major:** Preprofessional Biomedical Sciences  
**Project Title:** Ground Reaction Force in a Backflip compared to a Vertical Jump  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. John Mercer, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

**Recipient:** Conner Neilsen, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering  
**Project Title:** Measuring COP During Gait Using Pressure Sensitive Insoles  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Mohamed Trabia, Department of Mechanical Engineering

**Recipient:** Sindi Torres, School of Life Sciences  
**Major:** Biological Sciences, with minors in Psychology & Chemistry  
**Project Title:** Amino Acid Synthesis at Extreme Conditions  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Micheal Pravica, Department of Physics and Astronomy

**Recipient:** Chelsea Tran, School of Life Sciences  
**Major:** Biological Sciences, with minors in Psychology, Sociology, Public Health, & Neuroscience  
**Project Title:** GABAB Levels in a Non-Induced versus Inflammatory Mouse Model of Alzheimer’s Disease  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Jefferson Kinney, Department of Psychology

Office of Undergraduate Research Sponsored Awards ($500)

**Recipient:** Timothy Baba, Department of Geoscience  
**Major:** Geology  
**Project Title:** Calcium Isotopes in Chondrites "One Small Piece of Creation"  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Shichun Huang, Department of Geoscience

**Recipient:** Eric Becerril-Blas, Department of Physics and Astronomy & Department of Computer Science  
**Major:** Physics and Computer Science  
**Project Title:** Debris Disk Dynamics in HR 8799 Exoplanetary System  
**Faculty Research Mentor:** Dr. Rebecca G. Martin, Department of Physics and Astronomy
**Recipient**: Tia Chai, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry  
**Major**: Chemistry, with minors in French Studies & Mathematical Sciences  
**Project Title**: Identifying New Materials for Practical Hydrogen Storage  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Paul Forster, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Recipient**: Heidi Kim, School of Life Sciences  
**Major**: Preprofessional Biomedical Sciences  
**Project Title**: Synthesis of Diallyl Ethers with BPANHTf  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Jun Yong Kang, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Recipient**: Corina Ledbetter, School of Life Sciences  
**Major**: Biological Sciences  
**Project Title**: Resolution of Low Coverage Region of Paenibacillus larvae Bacteriophage Ulf Genome  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Christy Strong, School of Life Sciences

**Recipient**: Brandon Lee, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences  
**Major**: Athletic Training, with a minor in Kinesiology  
**Project Title**: The Effects of Summer Training Programs on ROTC Cadets  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Kara Radzak, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

**Recipient**: Maranatha Malonzo, Department of Physics & Astronomy  
**Major**: Physics  
**Project Title**: Structural and optical behavior of Si-Ge thermoelectric alloys used for NASA missions at extreme environments  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Ravhi Kumar, Department of Physics & Astronomy

**Recipient**: Annita Martinelli Becker, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
**Major**: Mechanical Engineering, with a minor in Mathematical Sciences  
**Project Title**: Reduced Enrichment for Research and Test Reactors  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Thomas Hartmann, Department of Mechanical Engineering

**Recipient**: Xavier Morgan-Lange, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
**Major**: Mechanical Engineering  
**Project Title**: Bolstering Solar Cell Longevity through Terrestrial Heat Mitigation and Transfer  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. Kwang J. Kim, Department of Mechanical Engineering

**Recipient**: Jimmy Salazar, Department of Physics & Astronomy  
**Major**: Physics  
**Project Title**: The Future of Lake Mead's Water Levels  
**Faculty Research Mentor**: Dr. George Rhee, Department of Physics & Astronomy
Recipient: Victor Sarmiento, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Major: Mechanical Engineering  
Project Title: Ground Reaction Force Production of a Vertical Jump vs. Back Tuck  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. John Mercer, Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences

Recipient: Tanya Serrano, School of Life Sciences  
Major: Preprofessional Biomedical Sciences  
Project Title: Latin Music Tempo Project  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Erin Hannon, Department of Psychology

Recipient: Sarah York, School of Life Sciences  
Major: Biological Sciences, with a minor in Chemistry  
Project Title: Blood cell dynamics in the basoendothermic mammal, Tenrec ecaudatus  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Frank van Breukelen, School of Life Sciences

Recipient: David Zagaceta, Department of Physics & Astronomy  
Major: Physics & Mathematical Sciences  
Project Title: An Open-Access Inorganic Electride Materials Database  
Faculty Research Mentor: Dr. Qiang Zhu, Department of Physics & Astronomy