UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM
Academic Year 2013 – 2014

The College of Engineering (COE) offers an opportunity for undergraduate students to participate in research with a faculty member. The program objectives are to stimulate awareness of advanced research and interest in graduate study. The program is open to outstanding, full-time sophomore, junior and senior COE students. Students in the program will work an average of ten hours per week on-campus during the academic year under the guidance of a COE professor on a specific research topic. The program is funded on a matching basis by the faculty sponsor and the College of Engineering.

Faculty research activities provide unique opportunities for individualized instruction and exposure to cutting-edge, emerging technologies. Students in this incentive program will:
• Be exposed to research early in their academic careers;
• Have first-hand experiences with research faculty and/or graduate students.

Faculty participants will:
• Be able to engage and recruit top undergraduate students to their research program;
• Extend their research funding and productivity.

Initially, the program will be offered as a research internship opportunity that enables selected students to work for a faculty member up to 10 hours a week in their sophomore, junior, or senior years. Remuneration (suggested at $10.00/hr for sophomores, $11.00/hr for juniors and $12.00/hr for seniors or $10.00/hr minimum) is shared (50-50) by the College and by the faculty advisor of the student (e.g., from a sponsored project, indirect cost account or a department match). Faculty/departments will be responsible for recruiting qualified students for the program and submitting an application form with a brief project description to Debbie Raposa (draposa@umassd.edu), Dion 319B, ext. 8387.

During the first week of the semester each student should meet with their faculty mentor to define a research plan and schedule and be put on the payroll. The student responsibilities are to fulfill the minimum ten hours per week research obligation and submit a brief summary report and a 100-word abstract on their research at the end of each term. Program eligibility requires students having a minimum overall GPA of 3.00 and maintaining satisfactory laboratory performance and on availability of funds. The responsible faculty member fosters a meaningful research experience and evaluates performance at the end of each semester.

To the extent possible URIP funds will be deployed to maximize the distribution of student/faculty participants. Summer employment is by arrangement between the student and faculty member only. More information is available by contacting the program coordinator: Debbie Raposa (draposa@umassd.edu), Dion 319B, ext. 8387.