Q1. Applicant Information

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Name of Department/ Unit/ Student Organization	Undergraduate Research Center
What is your role or position within the Department/ Unit/ Student Organization?	University of California Davis

Q2. Event/ Program Information

Name of the Event/ Program	33rd Annual Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference
Date(s) of Event (include the year)	Friday, April 29 through Saturday, April 30, 2022
Location	Friday, April 29th at the ARC Pavilion and Saturday, April 30th at Wellman Hall
Estimated # of UC Davis students that will attend/ benefit from program	1,000
TOTAL event/ program budget ($x,xxx)	$18,475
Funding request amount from COSAF (Student Programming Fund) ($x,xxx)	$9,100

Q3. Please provide a detailed description and purpose of the event/ program.

UC Davis undergraduate students in all academic fields are invited to submit an abstract and present at the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference. The conference is designed to acquaint undergraduates with the process and academic rigors of presenting research in a scholarly manner while building valuable communication skills. Students will present their research projects to faculty, staff, and peers in either a poster presentation, oral presentation, or Arts & Design Exhibit. Additionally, the conference will stimulate interaction and networking between students, faculty, staff, and peers, while helping encourage undergraduate students to pursue advanced degrees toward the goal of research and college teaching. Oral presentations are grouped by similar research topics and given 15 minutes for their presentations, including a question & answer portion from the audience. Our conference is traditionally an in-person experience; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our 2020 conference was hosted in a virtual format. Prior to the impacts of the pandemic, our 2020 conference was on track to be the largest one yet with over 800 undergraduate students submitting abstracts for the in-person conference. Our team was hopeful that students would still be interested in participating in our conference, even if the virtual format was new to most students. Our Aggies surpassed our expectations and we had over 600 students agree to present resulting in 550 individual and team presentations. In total, we had over 600 unique presenters participate in our first-ever virtual conference, with additional students attending to view and comment on presentations. Feedback from our 2020 conference participants indicated that although they enjoyed the opportunity to present virtually, they missed the opportunity to network with peers, faculty, and attendees. For this reason, it is our hope that our 33rd Annual Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference will return to an in-person format and continue the growth we experienced in 2019, which was our last in-person conference. Our 2019 oral presentations included 150 presentations with 35 majors represented and over 100 faculty sponsors. Each oral session will be moderated by a faculty member. In 2019 we had 30 faculty moderators assist with our oral presentations. Our 2019 research poster session displayed 530 research posters with 84 majors represented and over 300 faculty sponsors. In the poster session, students will have designed a visual poster representing their research and will be presenting their work to an individual or small group of faculty and peers during a 60-minute poster session. The research poster sessions are the largest portion of our conference both in the number of presenters and attendees. Our 2019 Arts & Design Exhibit doubled in size from the previous year with 18 submissions. The Arts & Design Exhibit takes place at the same time as the poster presentations and is on display for three hours. The Arts & Design Exhibit is an opportunity for arts, humanities, design, and engineering students to display their artwork, research, and prototypes. Overall between the two-day conference, our 2019 attendance was >6,000 people including undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, donors, and individuals from the Davis/Sacramento community. While participating in research provides excellent preparation for graduate study, students presenting their work at our conference will further enhance their experience and become even more valuable as they are considered for admission to graduate or professional schools. All presenters will be individually recognized with a certificate of achievement for their presentation. The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference has had a 99% acceptance rate for all conference applications over the 32-year history of our conference. The conference also serves as a way to recruit, encourage, and motivate undergraduate students who attend the conference but are not yet engaged in research to explore research opportunities. This is accomplished by exposing undergraduate students to the expansive and diverse research topics being explored on our campus. The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference contributes to the culture of research at UC Davis by providing a space for undergraduate researchers to present their research, scholarship, and creative activities in a welcoming and academic setting. For many students, presenting at the URC Conference is their first experience presenting their research in a scholarly environment and promotes the continued development of professional communication, scholar identity development, analytical skills, and overall confidence in being an undergraduate research scholar at a research-intensive university such as UC Davis. The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference is organized by a campus-wide committee and chaired by E. Nuñez, Undergraduate Research Center Associate Director, with support from Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs, Global Affairs, and University Library.

Q4. How will the requested funds be utilized to support this event/ program?

Each November prior to the conference, the URC assembles a conference planning committee to plan and organize all of the logistics to put on a successful conference for our campus community. Conference organization and costs include scheduling catering needs for both days of the conference, recruiting and training volunteers and faculty moderators, submitting and confirming space rentals for the ARC Pavilion and Wellmen Hall, renting poster boards, easels, tables, and IT services for each day of the conference, assigning presentation slots for all poster presentations, creating and approving all marketing material for conference, printing all conference signage, name tags, and certificates. We also print research posters for all student presenters (<500 posters) which amounts to a value of $80-120 per poster. Each year the URC anticipates a 10% increase that accounts for the estimated rise in costs for reserve facilities, creating marketing materials, and the like.

Q5. Please enter estimated attendance for the following groups.

Staff	100
Faculty	300
UCD Community Members	2000-3000
Other (please specify and include number)	

Q6. Who is the target audience of the event/ program? (e.g. students, program participants, users of a specific service)

The primary target audience is 700+ undergraduate student presenters from all majors, levels, and academic standing who have conducted faculty-sponsored research at UC Davis and will showcase their work. The target audience also includes many students as participants who attend the event who have not yet become involved with research and who want to learn about research opportunities and see examples of undergraduate research at UC Davis. These students attend and are infused with excitement expressed by their peers engaged in research. In addition to student presenters, the URC invites all UC Davis administrators, faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, staff, surrounding community colleges, potential donors, and members of the Davis/Sacramento community.

Q7. What program, activity, or service will be provided? (e.g. six-week training program, instructional class or activity, structured community program that exposes students to new ideas and experiences)

During the conference, we offer three one-hour research poster sessions (on Friday), a 3-hour arts & design exhibit (on Friday), and a full day of oral presentations (on Saturday). The URC provides guidance and mentorship to all conference presenters before, during, and after the conference. Before the conference, we offer a "How to write an abstract" workshop in partnership with the University Writing Program. The goal of this workshop is to assist undergraduate students interested in submitting an abstract for our conference. Workshop attendees receive specific feedback on their abstracts as well as gain general knowledge about how to successfully write an abstract within their specific discipline. Once undergraduate students have been notified of their acceptance to present at our conference we offer a "How to make an effective poster" and "How to give a professional talk workshop." These workshops are also in collaboration with the University Writing Program with the goal of helping oral and poster presenters prepare for their specific conference presentations. All presenters (<700 undergraduate students) also attend a mandatory preparation session to help students prepare for their conference presentation. During these preparation sessions, the URC team goes over the logistics of each presentation format, provides guidance on when presenters will receive their presentation time and location, and answers any questions students might have as they prepare for their conference presentation. In addition to supporting students as they prepare for the conference, the URC assembles a conference committee each year to plan and organize all of the logistics to put on a successful conference for our campus community. This includes scheduling catering needs for both days of the conference, recruiting and training volunteers and faculty moderators, submitting and confirming space rentals for the ARC Pavilion and Wellmen Hall, renting poster boards, easels, tables, and IT services for each day of the conference, assigning presentation slots for all poster presentations, creating and approving all marketing material for conference, printing all conference signage, name tags, and certificates. We also print research posters for all student presenters (<500 posters) which amounts to a value of $80-120 per poster. After each conference, every student presenter and faculty sponsor receives a post-conference survey asking for their feedback. The conference chair reviews the data from the post-conference survey and intentionally implements feedback where appropriate with the goal of improving the conference each year.

Q8. What will be learned? (i.e. acquired knowledge, skills or abilities, a new awareness/ sensitivity/ perspective, an adopted practice)

Student presenters will learn presentation, communication, and networking skills. Student attendees will learn about undergraduate research projects and opportunities. Based on post-conference survey results, student presenters at our annual conference reported increased confidence in their identity as a research scholar, an increased interest in presenting their research and design projects at other academic conferences, increased interest in continuing research, and increased interest in graduate school. It is common for some undergraduate students to participate in our conference for 2-3 years consecutively, and they are more likely to present at other conferences. The learning that takes place for these student presenters grows with each year they participate in our conference. Undergraduate students who are not yet involved with research who attend the conference learn about the expansive and diverse research topics being explored on our campus and see specific examples of undergraduate research projects and the diverse representation of students and mentors who are involved in the research. Oftentimes, this event encourages student attendees to explore their own research experience and/or present their research at the next conference. Student presenters are encouraged to invite family, friends, and others within their network of support. For these conference attendees, they learn the amount of hard work and dedication their student presenter is putting into their research experience. Finally, all attendees learn the accomplishments of undergraduate students involved with research and ways that undergraduate students can impact the world.

Q9. How will the learning be shown or what does the learning look like? (e.g. demonstrated knowledge of course material, change in behavior, a practiced skill, a task achieved)

Learning will be displayed through each presentation and the undergraduate researcher's ability to effectively communicate their research topic, findings, and implications. A student presenting a poster will stand at their poster to present and answer questions for one-hour during their assigned poster session. The arts & design exhibit is three hours long, and students are usually present for this entire time to answer questions and showcase their project. A student presenting in an oral session will present for 15 minutes, which includes 2-3 minutes for Q&A. Learning is also demonstrated and evaluated by faculty who participate as session moderators who ask questions of each presenter and provide certificates. Students not yet involved with research learn by looking at posters with examples of specific projects and asking questions about the research experience.

Q10. How does the event/ program provide services that are of growing interest to students? (if applicable)

By participating in the conference students gain and build transferable skills for internships, jobs, graduate school, medical school, and other professional schools. In addition, participation in the conference promotes professional communication, prepares students for effective interviews, prepares students to present at national conferences, networking with faculty, and peers. Students and the community members are also interested to see the community, social and scientific impact that undergraduate researchers have. Students also gain confidence so that they can attend external conferences that are of interest to them.

Q11. How does the event/ program foster diversity, equity, and inclusion? (if applicable)

Our annual conference fosters diversity by inviting students from all majors, academic standings, and backgrounds to present their work at the conference. The conference contributes to showcasing the research and scholarship and increasing the visibility of diverse students and mentors. The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference is very inclusive with a 99% acceptance rate for all conference registration submissions over the 30+ year history of our conference. In addition, we strive to ensure broad recruitment efforts with campus partners and programs, including the Center for African Diaspora Student Success (CADSS), the Center for Chicanx and Latinx Academic Student Success (CCLASS), the Native American Academic Student Success Center (NAASSC), the Middle Eastern, North African, and South Asian (MENASA) Student Resources, Strategic Asian Pacific Islander Retention Initiatives, LGBTQIA Center, Cross-Cultural Center, and the Women's Research & Resource Center are contacted to share registration info and invite a diverse group of students to participate in the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference. Undergraduate scholars from mentored research programs geared towards increasing research opportunities and graduate degrees for diverse students traditionally excluded and/or underrepresented in academia (BUSP, McNair, LSAMP/CAMP, MURPPS, UC LEADS, LEADR, MURALS, etc) consistently present at and attend our conference as part of the program goals, which also contributes to an effort to continue the growth and diversity the conference has experienced in the past. We also print research posters for all student presenters which amounts to a value of $80-120 per poster, to foster inclusion and ensure that there is no financial cost to students to attend and present.
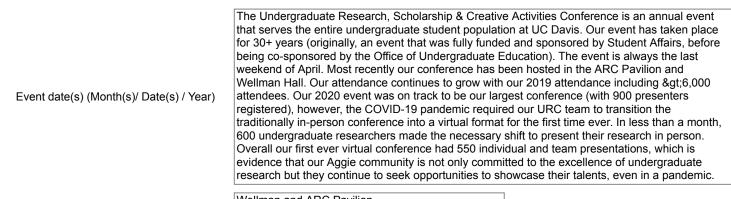
Q12. How does the event/ program provide crucial services to students? (if applicable)

The event provides critical opportunities for building communication skills, professional development, and preparation for graduate and professional schools. Students can highlight the conference on their CV/resume and are better prepared to talk about their research in interviews for jobs and graduate schools. There is currently no other conference at UC Davis that focuses on undergraduate students from all majors, disciplines, and academic standings presenting their research, scholarship, creative activities, or design projects. Many students experience presenting their research for the very first time at the Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference and without it, there would be a noticeable void for such a dedicated space to emerging undergraduate scholars. A key service that is crucial for broad participation is that we also print research posters for all student presenters (<500 posters) which amounts to a value of $80-120 per poster. Each year the URC assembles a conference committee to plan and organize all of the logistics to put on a successful conference for our campus community.

Q13. Has your Department/ Unit/ Student Organization put on this event in the past?

- ⦿ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Uncertain

Q14. Please provide the following information on the previous event(s).

Event date(s) (Month(s)/ Date(s) / Year)	The Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities Conference is an annual event that serves the entire undergraduate student population at UC Davis. Our event has taken place for 30+ years (originally, an event that was fully funded and sponsored by Student Affairs, before being co-sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Education). The event is always the last weekend of April. Most recently our conference has been hosted in the ARC Pavilion and Wellman Hall. Our attendance continues to grow with our 2019 attendance including >6,000 attendees. Our 2020 event was on track to be our largest conference (with 900 presenters registered), however, the COVID-19 pandemic required our URC team to transition the traditionally in-person conference into a virtual format for the first time ever. In less than a month, 600 undergraduate researchers made the necessary shift to present their research in person. Overall our first ever virtual conference had 550 individual and team presentations, which is evidence that our Aggie community is not only committed to the excellence of undergraduate research but they continue to seek opportunities to showcase their talents, even in a pandemic.
Location	Wellman and ARC Pavilion

Total attendance   6,000

Q15. How was the success of the event measured?

After each year conference presenters, faculty mentors and faculty moderators receive a post-conference survey as an avenue to provide feedback. Based on post-conference survey results, students who present at our annual conference reported an increased confidence in their identity as a research scholar, an increased interest in presenting their research and design projects at other academic conferences, increased interest in continuing research and increased interest in graduate school