

# Introduction to MT-IGO and URECA

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## Presenters

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# MT-Internal Grant Opportunities (MT-IGO)

# Purpose

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MT-IGO awards are intended to provide seed funding for tenured and tenure-track faculty in the preliminary stages of a larger research or creative activity agenda or program.

# Tier I and II

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**"Tier I"** is intended for research and creative activity projects *in preparation to compete for successive external funding to support the continuation and amplification of scholarship.*

**"Tier II"** is intended for research or creative activity that *currently do not have the potential for external funding but advance scholarship in the faculty member's field or provide innovative opportunities for faculty and student engagement in scholarly activity.*

# Proposal Elements

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- Abstract
- Project Description (5 page max)
  - Background/Significance/Methodology/Milestones/Deliverables
- Personnel and capacity
- Budget/

# Application and Review Process

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- Two cycles per year
- NSF-Style review
  - Raters and Readers (experts and non-experts)
  - Panel discussion and summary
  - Funding recommendation
- Award and Revise/Resubmit Decisions



# Jamie Burriss, Ph.D.

Program Manager, Office of Research  
and Sponsored Programs



# Undergraduate Research Experience and Creative Activity (URECA) Program

# Program Overview

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- University funds to directly support mentored undergraduate research w/annual budget of \$120,000
- Awards range from \$500 for beginners to \$3,500 for experienced student researchers
- Individual and team projects
- Grants offered fall, spring, summer
- Increasingly competitive
- 2021-22 URECA Committee

# 2021-22 URECA Committee Members

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Justin Miller, Chair	Chemistry	Basic and Applied Sciences	<a href="mailto:Justin.Miller@mtsu.edu">Justin.Miller@mtsu.edu</a>
Margaret Brooker	Theatre & Dance	Liberal Arts	<a href="mailto:Margaret.Brooker@mtsu.edu">Margaret.Brooker@mtsu.edu</a>
Kim Evert	Educational Leadership	Education	<a href="mailto:Kimberly.Evert@mtsu.edu">Kimberly.Evert@mtsu.edu</a>
Sean Foley	History	Liberal Arts	<a href="mailto:Sean.Foley@mtsu.edu">Sean.Foley@mtsu.edu</a>
Keely O'Brien	Agriculture	Basic and Applied Sciences	<a href="mailto:Keely.Obrien@mtsu.edu">Keely.Obrien@mtsu.edu</a>
Tiffany Rogers	Psychology	Behavioral and Health Sciences	<a href="mailto:Tiffany.Rogers@mtsu.edu">Tiffany.Rogers@mtsu.edu</a>
Misty Jones Simpson	Recording Industry	Media and Entertainment	<a href="mailto:Misty.Jones@mtsu.edu">Misty.Jones@mtsu.edu</a>
Hanna Terletska	Physics and Astronomy	Basic and Applied Sciences	<a href="mailto:Hanna.Terletska@mtsu.edu">Hanna.Terletska@mtsu.edu</a>
Yixiang Wu	Mathematics	Basic and Applied Sciences	<a href="mailto:Yixiang.Wu@mtsu.edu">Yixiang.Wu@mtsu.edu</a>
Anne Anderson	Finance	Business	<a href="mailto:Anne.Anderson@mtsu.edu">Anne.Anderson@mtsu.edu</a>

# Levels of Funding and Requirements

	Assistant	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Experience Level	Beginner	Experienced	Experienced	Experienced
Proof Of Experience	None required	Prior completion of URECA project or mentor letter	Prior completion of URECA project or mentor letter	Prior completion of URECA project or mentor letter
Duration	1 semester	1 or 2 semesters	2 semesters	Full time summer
Typical # Of Hours Required	50	100	240	350
Time Reporting	Email to URC from mentor	Email to URC from mentor	Email to URC from mentor	Email to URC from mentor
Class Credit	Must justify that URECA hours are outside the scope of class credit.			
Length Of Proposal	2 pages	3-5 pages	5 pages	5 pages
\$\$ For Student	\$500 (up to 2 payments)	\$1,000 (up to 2 payments)	\$2,400 (up to 4 payments)	\$3,500 (up to 4 payments during summer)
\$\$ For Faculty Mentor	N/A	N/A	\$500	\$500
\$\$ For Supplies	\$300 max *	\$300 max *	\$500 max *	\$500 max *
\$\$ For Travel	\$400 domestic or \$500 international *			
Accountability	Project Summary (Brief report or questionnaire) Presentation at Fall Open House or Scholars Week Attend Spring Celebration Luncheon			
Project Deadline	Project can remain open for a maximum of 3 semesters. Your current URECA project must be completed prior to beginning a new project.			

# Proposal Development

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- URECA Workshop
  - Virtual for Fall 2021
  - In-Person for Spring 2022
- Peer Mentor Scholar: Jared Frazier
- Specific elements of the proposal will depend on the discipline, but proposals might include the following:
  - Introduction
  - Background
  - Purpose
  - Methods
  - Timeline
  - Collaboration with Faculty Mentor(s)
- Sample proposals, budgets, and timelines

# Review and Award Process

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- Each proposal is scored by 5 committee members
- URECA Scoring Guide
- Proposals are sorted in rank order
- Cutoff determined by quality of proposals and amount of funding available
- Thoroughly review supplies budget and travel budget
- Award letters and revise/resubmit letters sent via email to students

# Sample of Current URECA Projects

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Project Title	Type	Mentor	Department
Changes in Social Motivation Following Oxytocin Receptor Inhibition	Research	Tiffany Rogers	Psychology
Classical Guitar Transcriptions and Recordings of Minecraft Volume Alpha	Creative Activity	William Yelverton	Music
The Effects of Lifetime Physical Activity on Working Memory in Older Adults	Research	Vaughn Berry	Health and Human Performance
Commemorations on the Landscape: Seven African American Women Who Helped to Define R&B and Country Music	Research	Martha Norkunas	History
Arista brook project 1990-1999	Creative Activity	Denise Shackelford	Recording Industry
Harnessing Disorder Effects in Superconductors	Research	Hanna Terletska	Physics
Influence of Land Management Practices and Population Density on Soil Hydraulic and Thermal Properties	Research	Samuel Haruna	Agriculture
Chlorine Dioxide Gas: Promising Potential for Use as an Anti-viral Agent	Research	Anthony Newsome	Biology
Applying Machine Learning to Identify Autism Spectrum Disorder Using rs-fMRI Datasets Parsed by Age and Gender	Research	Xin Yang	Computer Science
(dis)Connected: A Series of Interviews on Society and Spirituality in the Modern World	Creative Activity	Rebekka King	Philosophy
Beliefs and Attitudes on Working with Older Adults: Data Collection and Scale Testing	Research	Shelley Moore	Nursing



# Expectations of URECA Students

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- Adhere to proposed timeline
- Communication with mentor/program manager
- Complete post-URECA reflection questionnaire
- Present research or creative activity at (1) of the following: Fall Open House, Scholars Week, or Summer Research Celebration
- Attend spring URECA luncheon & distinguished lecture
- Undergraduate Research Graduation Distinction
- National Conference on Undergraduate Research

# Undergraduate Research Center

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- Student Organization for the Advancement of Research (SOAR)
- Conference travel
- Poster printing
- URC monthly newsletter
  - Student spotlight: featured research and creative activity projects
  - Featured SOAR student
  - Upcoming events – NCUR, Posters at the Capitol, Scholars Week, Open House, URECA luncheon & Distinguished Lecture, etc.
  - Upcoming workshops
  - Student success recognitions – publication, conference presentation, awards, other recognitions
  - Undergraduate research and creative activity internships, presentation, publication, and other research opportunities
- Poster and presentation resources
- Publication and creative projects

# Q & A

**Do you have any questions?**