

UWSP TEACHING CONFERENCE 2025

Undergraduate Research as High Impact Practice



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Outline

Overview

High impact practice

Travel grants

Poster printing

Fellowships

Minds@UW

Questions



Overview



Overview

URSCA: Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity

- Launched in Fall 2023
- Funds student travel, conference registration, poster printing and research fellowships.
- Website: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/UCOL/Pages/URSCA.aspx>
- Email: oscar@uwsp.edu



High Impact Practice



Why is undergraduate research beneficial?



High Impact Practice

- identified by AAC&U in 2007
- Council on Undergraduate Research definition:
 - “A mentored investigation or creative inquiry conducted by undergraduates that seeks to make a scholarly or artistic contribution to knowledge” (2025).



Benefits to Students

- transferrable skills
- problem-solving
- communication skills
- thinking
 - analytical, critical, higher-order
- confidence
- retention/graduation
- grades
- graduate school
- personal growth
- work independently
- career choice

Whitehead et al., 2024
American Association of Colleges & Universities



HIPs Don't Lie

“... the experience helps shrink the psychological size of a campus ... Thus, it is nearly impossible for a student in a HIP to be anonymous, a condition that is unfriendly to persistence and other desired outcomes. And when done well, the HIP experience creates conditions whereby all students, including those from historically underrepresented groups, are seen, heard, and impelled to engage ...”

Kuh, O'Donnell, & Schneider, 2017, p. 12
Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning



Benefits to Mentors

- serving as academic role model
- remaining current in the field
- new content for courses
- engaging underrepresented students
- job satisfaction
- personal development
- intellectual stimulation

Osborn & Karukstis, 2009
Council on Undergraduate Research



Travel Grants



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Travel Grants

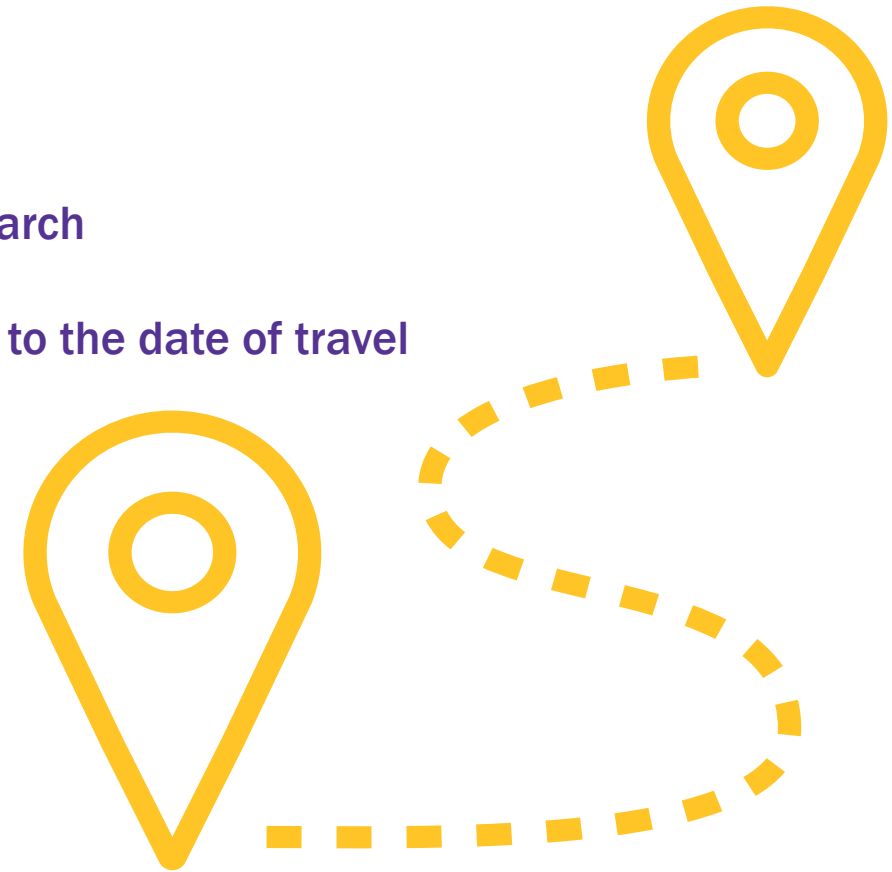
Individual grants are awarded up to **\$750** / Group grants are awarded up to **\$4500**

What is the criteria for a travel grant?

- ✓ current UWSP undergraduate student
- ✓ provide documentation of acceptance to present research
- ✓ complete budget worksheet
- ✓ applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the date of travel

What expenses can be reimbursed?

- ✓ Airfare
- ✓ Mileage
- ✓ Ground transportation
- ✓ Lodging
- ✓ Registration fees





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Poster Printing



Poster Printing

Available to students who are presenting research at professional conferences, events or other non-course related activities.

- An instructor or advisor will complete the Poster Print Application
- Poster printing requires a minimum of a 2-week lead time.
- The student will pick up the poster from Print & Design



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From Within: Harnessing Asustainable, Locally-Driven

Dr. H. Scott Wallace, Dr. Nikolaus T. Butz
University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point

Retail Traffic Patterns



Placemaking

Wiscns needs revitalizing. With a central hub for research, vibrant downtown areas bring patterns bring unique patterns can be on the ground.

A compost application rate for sust

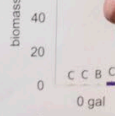
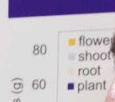
Maya Desai, Natalie Gruben, Alaina Hart, Sydney Paoli, Addison P

Introduction

- Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*) is an alternative crop that can be used for the production of fiber and cannabidiols (CBD).
- It was illegal to grow hemp in Wisconsin (1970-2018) resulting in a lack of research and loss of knowledge on agricultural production of hemp.
- Wisconsin farmers lack information on soil management actions necessary to grow hemp in a sustainable manner.¹
- Compost amendments are known to positively influence soil quality and are considered one of the tenants of sustainable agriculture.²
- This experiment was conducted to determine a compost amendment application rate for hemp.

Methods

Experiment was a completely randomized design with 12 treatments. The treatments included 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 gal of compost. The treatments were applied to the soil on 06/01/2020.



on agriculture in Wisconsin

Authors: Bryant Scharenbroch and Shanno

Discussion



- Flower, shoot, and total plant biomass were significantly greater with the treatment compared to the control. Flower, shoot, and total biomass was significantly greater with the treatment compared to the control. Flower, shoot, and total biomass was significantly greater with the treatment compared to the control.
- THCA, CBDA, and CBD did not differ between the treatments. THCA, CBDA, and CBD did not differ between the treatments. THCA, CBDA, and CBD did not differ between the treatments.

University of Wisconsin

COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium



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Fellowships



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Research and Creative Fellowships

- December 2024
 - provost initiative
- 13 fellowships awarded
 - 8 low-income students
 - \$38,000



parasites waterfowl
bears
snails hemp
meadow cannabis
soil compost stilts
ojibwe finches
alfalfa horicon



Research and Creative Fellowships

- mentor applies
 - undergraduates only
- extracurricular
 - no class projects
- Up to \$3,000
 - reimbursed at \$15/hour
 - no stipends or supplies
- no other external funding for student wages
- priority for low-income, first-time applicants
- first-come, first-served



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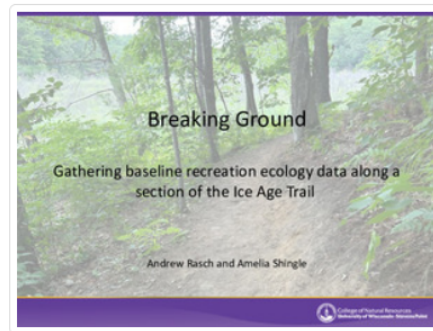
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Minds@UW

- institutional repository of Universities of Wisconsin
 - minds.wisconsin.edu
- shared freely on internet
 - Google Scholar, Search@UW library catalog
- preserved forever
 - permanent link
 - resume, scholarships, graduate school



Breaking Ground: Gathering Baseline Recreation Ecology Data along a Section of the Ice Age Trail



File(s)

[Presentation slides \(22.91Mb\)](#)

Date

2024-04-19

Author

Rasch, Andrew
Shingle, Amelia

Publisher

College of Natural Resources, University
of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Advisor(s)

Anderson McIntyre, Laura

This study explores the ecological implication of trail building within forested areas by examining recently constructed (October 2022) and newly constructed (August 2023) portions of the Ice Age Trail (IAT), specifically the Iola Ski Segment near the Iola Winter Sports Club in Iola, Wisconsin. There are two main components of this study. First, we assessed conditions and ecological impacts on the constructed trail segments. Second, we surveyed the vegetation and habitat along these segments. In total, 58 points were sampled along the IAT. At each point, trail width, slope, and erosion were measured and recorded. Trail width, slope, and erosion were then compared to the IAT trail guidelines, seeing if the trail continues to meet guidelines, or if it changes over time. Vegetation coverage was also surveyed at each point. The type of vegetative cover was recorded in three feet increments, starting with 0-3 feet off the trail, then at 3-6 feet off the trail, and finally at 6-9 feet off the trail on both sides. Disturbance-based plants and native, productive site indicators were noted and recorded. This set of data will serve as the baseline data of trail measurements, erosion, and vegetation on this section of the Ice Age Trail. Our hope is that these measurements can be repeated in the future to understand how trails change over time and how they can impact surrounding environments. Though more will be known in the future, we will share some preliminary findings.

Permanent Link

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1793/85291>

Type

Presentation

Part of

[Jim & Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium](#)

Questions?

uwsp.edu/UCOL/Pages/URSCA.aspx



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