The Research Opportunity Program (ROP) prepares high achieving underrepresented undergraduate students for admission into graduate school to pursue master’s and doctoral degrees. Participants prepare for graduate school by attending seminars, advisement and completion of a faculty-mentored research project. Benefits include free travel opportunities, a research stipend, graduate school application fee waivers and intensive support during the graduate school application process. ROP is funded by the NM State Legislature on an annual basis as part of the Research and Public Service Projects grants (RPSP).

Who We Are

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Mission

To prepare underrepresented students from New Mexico for graduate school with the eventual goal of earning master’s degrees and a Ph.D.s.

Vision

Create a community of scholars that inspire each other to the highest degree!
Impact on Students

Alumni of our program have earned graduate school degrees from dozens of universities nationwide and even overseas. Our participants gain access to high quality research training and academic and professional guidance that they would not otherwise have had. Students are taught the fundamentals of research and work under the mentorship of a faculty member to develop a project. They are also supported through the process of studying for the GRE, and applying to graduate programs. These opportunities are typically difficult for undergraduate students to participate in, particularly those from the targeted backgrounds. At the end of their undergraduate degrees, participants in the program are prepared for graduate education in research-intensive fields. Past participants have attended numerous prestigious universities (Yale, Harvard, UC-Berkeley, etc.), receiving full funding while pursuing their graduate degrees.

Programs, Services, Sub-units and Initiatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
<th>UNM5 skills</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Because our students conduct and present research (among faculty) our</td>
<td>• Professionalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>programming is aimed at teaching our students professionalism, research</td>
<td>• Research &amp; Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>skills, communication skills, critical thinking and collaboration.</td>
<td>• Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROP served 8 in 2017-2018.</td>
<td>• Collaboration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Population: Underrepresented undergraduates past their</td>
<td>• Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sophomore year with at least a 3.0 GPA. 50% STEM Majors.</td>
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Fiscal Update, Revenues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ROP Budget—NM State Legislature (Research and Public Service Project)</td>
<td>$108,800</td>
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Goals for 2018-19

1. Recruit the proper number of underrepresented undergraduates with 3.0+ GPA and at least 60 earned credits. ½ of recruits should be STEM majors
2. Require students to complete a faculty mentored research project as part of the summer internship program
3. Require that student participants attend monthly seminars and one-on-one advisement
4. 60% of ROP bachelor’s degree recipients will be accepted and enrolled in a post baccalaureate program of study by the fall term of the academic year immediately following the completion of the bachelor’s degree
5. Host a national undergraduate research conference with McNair Scholars from across the country

Selected Impacts and Outcomes

Of the 8 ROP participants that graduated in the 2017-2018 academic year, 6 (75%), were accepted and matriculated to graduate school in fall 2018 at the following universities: UNM, University of Houston, University of Maryland-College Park, Northern Arizona, and the University of Washington (Seattle).

100% of our scholars continued into subsequent semesters or graduated in 2017-2018

The average cumulative GPA of our participants in 2017-2018 was 3.631

100% of our participants conducted a faculty-mentored research project in the 2017-2018

63% of our participants in 2017-2018 were Pell Grant recipients.

Quick Facts

Below is a snapshot of the program’s success from 1999 thru FY2018:

• 220 ROP Scholars Served
• 195 Bachelor’s Degrees Earned
• 102 Master’s Degrees Earned
• 25 Doctorates Earned
  • 48 Graduate Students Currently Enrolled
UNM President Stokes posing with our scholars in April 2018

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