The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation

What is SURE (Summer Undergraduate Research Experience)?

The Summer Undergraduate Research Experience program provides undergraduate students the opportunity for cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research in the areas of applied molecular and cellular biology, bioengineering, computational biology, and drug discovery and development, along with exposure to related ethics and business topics.

For the summer of 2022, we plan to offer the SURE program in a hybrid format with dates spanning June 27 to July 29. Thanks to our learning experiences of the last two years, we will again offer seven tracks of study, some with two different sessions to accommodate more students’ availability. Some tracks will be offered online only, and other tracks will be offered online and in-person. In addition, there will be residential, hands-on, individual research projects available for those attending on campus.

Since one of the main goals of the SURE program is to promote the success of women and underrepresented minority students in STEM fields, we are excited to offer these opportunities to first-generation students and others who may be unfamiliar with the career opportunities that graduate education in STEM can afford them. We feel strongly that it is important to offer this opportunity at no cost in order to reach all populations of undergraduate students. Funding for this program provides scholarships for student attendees and transportation for field trips to local biotech and pharma companies.

Impact of the Norris Foundation’s Past SURE Program Funding

- Total SURE funding from the Norris Foundation: $310k
- Years of SURE program support: 6 years
- Number of students impacted by Norris funding: 633

- There were six publications produced from SURE program activity on the following topics:
  - Drug repurposing
  - Infectious diseases
  - The molecular basis of disease
  - Chemistry

- SURE students continue on to great things:
  - Graduate education (medical/dental school, KGI master’s programs, PhD programs, etc.)
  - Biotech/pharma industry jobs
  - Health sector jobs