Special Issue*:* Federally Funded Undergraduate Research Programs: What is at Stake

The termination of dozens of NSF-REU site grants and other federally-funded undergraduate research programs has raised concerns about the future of undergraduate research mentoring and the STEM career pipeline. Through years of NSF funding, researchers across the nation have developed a range of innovative and impactful programs that have advanced our ability to meet the mentoring needs of all students while conducting cutting-edge STEM research.

The purpose of this special issue is to celebrate our community's accomplishments in undergraduate research mentoring, identify challenges and opportunities for the continued achievement of these programs' missions, discuss lessons learned, enable knowledge-sharing, and clarify what will be lost if federal agencies stop funding undergraduate research training and mentoring programs. The editorial team is interested in manuscripts that:

- Document innovative mentorship strategies that federal funding helped to develop;
- Document extraordinary undergraduate research programs funded by federal agencies, particularly those affected by cuts or termination;
- Provide a broad overview of the value of federally-funded undergraduate mentoring programs from a historical and policy perspective; or
- Provide insights and strategies for maintaining these innovative mentoring programs in the absence of federal funding.

PURM is an open-access, multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed online journal supporting the mission of undergraduate research and the programs that strive to provide undergraduate students opportunities to participate in scholarly activities with faculty mentors. PURM's unique focus on the process of undergraduate research and mentoring rather than the products of these activities provides a space for the growing undergraduate research community to share experiences, opportunities, concerns, and challenges in a rigorous, professional venue.

PURM welcomes a wide variety of article types, including Dialogues (co-authored pieces written by faculty mentors and mentees), Student Perspectives, Research Articles (literature reviews or original empirical research studies), and Invited Viewpoints. For this special issue, we also welcome the submission of Case Studies and Practitioner Pieces (e.g., program descriptions or novel idea descriptions). Submissions may have student authors or co-authors. For more information about the types of articles accepted by PURM, please visit the website at https://www.elon.edu/u/academics/undergraduate-research/purm/for-authors/.

To be considered for the Special Issue on **Federally Funded Undergraduate Research Programs: What is at Stake**, to be published in June 2026, manuscripts must be received by **February 1, 2026**. Full submission guidelines may be found at https://www.elon.edu/u/academics/undergraduate-

research/purm/for-authors/. Any questions regarding the submission and review process or article inquiries for the Special Issue may be directed to Drs. Claudia Scholz (cws3v@virginia.edu), Laura Wagner (wagner.602@osu.edu) or PURM@elon.edu. Questions about PURM and all other inquiries may be directed to Dr. Jennifer Hamel, Managing Editor of PURM (JHAMEL2@ELON.EDU).

Submission Timeline:
• November 1 2025 – Abstract Submission
Authors should submit a 500 word abstract describing their paper, including its format. The editors may contact authors to encourage collaborative submissions for pieces with significant overlap.

• November 21 2025 – Paper Invitations
Authors will be contacted and formally invited to submit their papers to the special issue

• February 1 2026 – Paper Submission Deadline
Full manuscripts should be emailed to the editors for review

• March 1 2026 – Comments Returned
Authors will receive feedback from the editors for revision

• April 1 2026 – Final Versions due
Revised manuscripts should be submitted

• May 1 2026 – PURM begins copy editing and formatting; DOI assignment, etc.

• June 1 2026 – Special Issue published to PURM website