

# STEM Posters at the Capitol in Little Rock



“It is essential, if we want to continue to reap the benefits of science, to commit as a nation to preparing more young people for extraordinary careers in science.”

*Carol W. Greider, 2009 Nobel laureate in physiology & medicine*

**Next scheduled event: February 15, 2017**

This program is now an established undergraduate “STEM Posters-at-the-Capitol” event in Little Rock. Arkansas undergraduates will share original research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and will provide personal, first-hand experiences from their institutions. The target audience includes constitutional officers, elected legislators, STEM policy experts, and the Arkansas general public. The event has generated significant interest across the majority of four-year schools in Arkansas, among elected officials, and increasingly among a growing number of Arkansas high schools with students interested in remaining in Arkansas to complete four-year STEM degrees.

This poster event offers a unique promotion of exceptional educational opportunities for Arkansans in technical-disciplines, *good news* about education in the state. It provides a personal lobbying effort for higher education from the students, those benefiting most from the experience. This science and math poster session at the capitol helps promote undergraduate STEM education in the state.

- Benefits**
- Promote undergraduate STEM educational opportunities in the state
  - Advocate funding for undergraduate STEM research experiences (ADHE SURF)
  - Increase retention/matriculation of students in technical degrees at Arkansas schools

- Likely sponsors**
- Arkansas STEM Coalition
  - Arkansas Academy of Sciences
  - Arkansas STEM-related businesses

- Highlights From 2015 Posters at the Capitol**
- Over 90 students participated from around the state of Arkansas
  - 15 different Arkansas colleges and universities sent students from all STEM disciplines
  - Governors Beebe (2012-14) and Hutchinson (2015) met and visited with many students
  - Nearly 100 high school students attended allowing these students to make connections to prospective four-year schools. These connections encourage these students to remain in AR to complete their STEM degrees.
  - Elected legislators met with students and learned about STEM educational experiences in AR

**Online & Social Media**

<http://faculty.uca.edu/wvslaton/ARposters/index.htm>  
Twitter: #ARPosters

- Date: Feb. 15, 2017**
- Timeline for planning**
- Appeal statewide for student participants (Sep/Oct 2016)
  - Reserve luncheon venue (Union Station); keynote TBD
  - Collect abstracts and contact information from students (Nov/Dec 2016)
  - Students invite elected representatives by letter/email to meet them at the capitol (Dec/Jan)
  - Send final instructions/plans for student preparation (Jan 2017)
  - Schedule for Feb. 15
    - 9:00 – 9:30 setup in rotunda
    - 10:00 – 11:00 Session 1 | 11:00 – 12:00 Session 2
    - 12:30 – 2:00 Luncheon at Union Station (posters removed by 2:30)

- Estimated Budget**
- Printing abstract booklets, name tags, etc. \$ 300
  - Refreshments during the poster session in the rotunda \$ 600
  - Luncheon at Union Station (walk from capitol) ~ 150 people \$ 3800

- Reference Sources**
- D. R. Howard “Poster Sessions at Your Capitol” *CUR Quarterly* Dec. 1998, p. 86
  - P. J. Pukkila, K. M. Whatley “Research in the State Capital: Helping Your State Legislators Understand and Appreciate Higher Education” *CUR Quarterly* Dec. 2001, p. 81
  - Murray State University “Starter Kit” <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/>

*CUR: Council on Undergraduate Research, Wash, DC based promoter of undergraduate research ([www.cur.org](http://www.cur.org))*

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