The goal is to establish an annual or biennial 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. February 2012’s session was a great success (highlights below), a template for an anticipated regular event at the capitol.

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. An annual or biennial science and math poster session at the capitol will help 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

**Potential sponsors**
- Arkansas STEM Coalition
- Arkansas Academy of Sciences
- Arkansas Science and Technology Authority

**Highlights from February 2012 Posters at the Capitol**
- 80 students participated from around the state of Arkansas
- 14 different Arkansas colleges and universities sent students from all STEM disciplines
- Governor Beebe attended, met with many students, and learned about their work
- Elected legislators met with students and learned about STEM educational experiences in AR
- High school students from Bald Knob attended
- Little Rock TV news covered the event
- Luncheon honored student presenters; keynote speaker, Prof. Alexis Biris (Dir. Nanotech. Ctr., UALR) discussed the importance of effective communication among scientists

**Date: Feb. 6, 2013**

**Timeline for planning**
- Appeal statewide for student participants (Sep/Oct 2012)
- Reserve luncheon venue (Union Station); keynote: Dr. Richard Jacobs ACHRI (Fall 2012)
- Collect abstracts and contact information from students (Nov/Dec 2012)
- Students invite elected representatives by letter/email to meet them at the capitol (Dec/Jan)
- Send final instructions/plans for student preparation (Jan 2013)
- Schedule for Feb. 6
  - 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)

**Reference Sources**
- D. R. Howard “Poster Sessions at Your Capitol” CUR Quarterly Dec. 1998, p. 86
- Murray State University “Starter Kit” http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/

**Organizer contact information**
- Patrick Desrochers, Prof. of Chemistry
  - University of Central Arkansas
  - Conway, AR 72035
  - (501) 450-5939 office
  - (501) 450-3623 fax
  - (501) 339-6561 cell
  - patrickd@uca.edu

------

“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