

Title III 5- Year Proposal
Covering: October 1, 2017- September 30, 2022

Project Director: Dr. Zephyrinus Okonkwo

1. Name of Institution: Albany State University	2. Activity Title: Strengthening the Undergraduate Research Center 3. Activity Number:
4. Focus Area: Academic Quality	5. LAA Category: Academic instruction in disciplines in which Black Americans are underrepresented.

Budget Request Amount: **\$1,304,900.00**

6. Provide Narrative:

Undergraduate research is an investigative, original intellectual activity by an undergraduate student which leads to a measurable contribution to the discipline. The Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) defines Undergraduate Research as “An inquiry or investigation conducted by an undergraduate student that makes an original intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline, CUR, 2011).” This definition is sync with Albany State University’s strategic initiative (Goal 2: Strategy 2.1), “To create a distinctive culture of discovery with enhanced opportunities for all university stakeholders.”

The Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR) at Albany State University works with students, faculty, and our leaders to create research awareness and to emphasize its importance. The center trains students, faculty, and staff on research methods, the center promotes undergraduate conferences and conference research paper presentations, and it supports student research publications in referred journals and proceedings. It is well known that student engagement in learning, including out-of-class learning experiences such as undergraduate research, has substantial positive impact on student success and achievement, retention, progression, persistence, and graduation. Student participants have more one-on-one contact time with their mentors, become more confident, increase quality time-on-task, and are able to progress to graduate schools, professional schools, or seek and secure high paying jobs.

CUR student participants have continued to outperform other students at Albany State University. They have maintained a higher mean Grade Point Average (GPA) than the general student population. While the mean GPA of ASU students were 2.66, 2.72, and 2.70 for 2013, 2014, and 2015 respectively, the mean GPA of CUR participants were 3.14, 3.07, and 3.14 for 2013, 2014, 2015 respectively. This is statistically significant. CUR will continue to provide for participants and their mentors support and opportunities to enhance student research and creative activity skills and knowledge. CUR will continue to foster their zeal to remain persistent, to complete assigned tasks, to increase their success in their courses and programs, and to progress and graduate on time, and remain confident in their pursuit for promising careers and graduate education.

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<p>1. Name of Institution: Albany State University</p>	<p>2. Activity Title: Strengthening the Undergraduate Research Center</p> <p>3. Activity Number: 2</p>
<p>4. Activity Objective(s)</p>	<p>5. Anticipated Results to Measure Success (Performance Indicators):</p>
<p>Objective 1: Identify innovative pathways to serve more students, faculty, and other partners who have stake in undergraduate research, work with colleges and academic departments to revise program curricula by integrating and emphasizing undergraduate research in program courses.</p>	<p>Performance Indicator 1: It is hoped that all academic departments will show increased undergraduate research engagement by integrating undergraduate research topics and concepts into their program learning outcomes, with some courses dedicated to enhanced research activities, as well as engage more of their faculty members and students in research.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An increased number of students engaged in research. 2. Increased number of faculty members engaged in research. 3. Increased number of courses involving Research Methodology to enhance student readiness for undergraduate research in collaboration with academic departments and colleges. 4. Increased number of students participating in summer internships. 5. An increased infusion of high-impact practices in program courses.

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Objective 2: Delineate and develop corporative linkages within Albany State University, with other universities, with partnerships in the Southwest Georgia community, and industry to leverage undergraduate research capacities, which will ultimately lead to increased economic development.	Performance Indicator 2: It is anticipated that additional collaborative and corporative partnerships within ASU, and other institutional and community organizations in Southwest Georgia, including K-12 schools are established. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An increased number of faculty and students working together on research projects involving finding solutions to local problems in Southwest Georgia.2. Building stronger relationships with local high school teachers and students as it relates to research activities as a possible recruitment tool.3. Increased number of students taking courses or workshops involving research methodology, empirical data collection, data analysis, and interpretations.4. Prepare more students for graduate education through mentoring, special workshops, and increased connections to research colleges and universities.5. Increased number the number of underrepresented students enrolling in college with enhanced research skills.6. Increased number of joint research presentations made by faculty and students involving local problems and challenges.
Objective 3: Support interdisciplinary research, Civic Engagement and Community-based Participatory Research (CECBPR), and other activities which will exemplify diversity of research thought processes.	Performance Indicator 3: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increased retention rates and student engagement in high-impact practices for first and second year students through the participation in the CECBPR Learning Communities.2. Increased research knowledge and skills of students and faculty Civic Engagement and Community-based Participatory Research (CECBPR) through workshops and short courses.3. Bridging the gap between the community, university, faculty, and students through community engagement activities centered on undergraduate research.

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<p>4. Activity Objective(s)</p>	<p>5. Anticipated Results to Measure Success (Performance Indicators):</p>
<p>Objective 4: Create and implement action steps to increase the number of students engaged in undergraduate research and creative endeavors by working with the office of Academic Affairs, deans, chairpersons, faculty, and students.</p>	<p>Performance Indicator 4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased knowledge for faculty and students gained from integrating subject-matter expertise. 2. Increased readiness for students interested in the university's planned interdisciplinary studies program. 3. Increased seeking of funding sources for faculty applying for interdisciplinary federal funded research grants. 4. Increased the number of faculty and students engaged in research with industry and outside organizations. 5. Increased opportunities for faculty and students to present their research findings at scholarly meetings or publish their research work in peer-reviewed proceedings or journals. 6. Increased number of research topics on which faculty and students work on as well as increased number of faculty and students engaged in research with industry and outside organizations.
<p>Objective 5: Promote diversity in many and varied forms including among students, faculty, staff, gender, and fields of research.</p>	<p>Performance Indicator 5:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased number of undergraduate research topics worked on by faculty and students exemplifying diversity. 2. Increased number of undergraduate research topics worked on by faculty and students from colleges and departments which have shown less participation in the past. 3. Increased number of qualitative research topics.

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Objective 6: Implement action steps for faculty and student interest to garner competence and disposition to do global research involving economic, social, health, and educational issues.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increased number of opportunities availed to students and faculty to present their research findings at Albany State University every year, with at least one of them open to students and faculty from other colleges and universities.2. Implement action steps for faculty and student interest to garner competence and disposition to do global research involving economic, social, health, and educational issues.3. Analyze CUR data periodically for program improvement.4. Review and publish quality papers written by faculty and students in the Proceedings of Undergraduate Research, Albany State University every year.
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GRANT ACTIVITY FOR THE TITLE III PART B OR PART F PROGRAMS				
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY AND TIMETABLE FORM				
1. Name of Institution: Albany State University			2. Activity Title: Strengthening Undergraduate Research	
3. SPECIFIC TASKS TO BE COMPLETED	4. PRIMARY PARTICIP ANTS	5. METHODS INVOLVED	6. TANGIBLE RESULTS	7. TIME FRAME FROM/ TO
1.1 Identify innovative pathways to serve more students, faculty, and other partners who have stake in undergraduate research, work with colleges and academic departments to revise program curricula by integrating and emphasizing undergraduate research in program courses.	Chairs, Deans, faculty mentors, undergraduate students, Program Director and staff.	a. Revise courses, create new one, and revise curriculum. b. Conduct workshops for faculty on infusion of high-impact activities into the curriculum. c. Infuse undergraduate research concepts and topics into program courses and program learning outcomes. d. Announce and promote undergraduate research opportunities	a. Increase awareness of high-impact learning practices b. Conduct sessions to work of building and revising curriculum and courses. c. Revising course syllabi and exemplify higher cognitive skills levels as espoused by Bloom's taxonomy.	10/01/17-09/30/2022

<p>2.1. Delineate and develop corporative linkages within Albany State University, with other universities, with partnerships in the Southwest Georgia community, and industry to leverage undergraduate research capacities, which will ultimately lead to increased economic development.</p>	<p>Faculty, undergraduate students, Program Director, chairs, deans, CUR Steering Committee, and K-12 partners, and Southwest Georgia community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Host CUR Committee meetings (b) Identify new CUR partners. (c) Schedule meetings with chairs and deans (d) Call for undergraduate research proposals (e) Organize proposal reviews, and recommending funding support (f) Undergraduate research steering committee members and student ambassadors to serve as program liaisons. e. Attend department meetings. f. Create collaborative relationships between ASU and other institutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Increase awareness of undergraduate research efforts and the benefits of participating. e. Increase the number of student participants f. Increase number of faculty participants g. Increase number of departments participating in undergraduate research. h. Connect undergraduate research participation to student retention, progression, and graduation. i. Increase the number of students writing publishable papers. 	<p>10/01/17-09/30/2022</p>
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3.1 Support interdisciplinary research, Civic Engagement and Community-based Participatory Research (CECBPR), and other activities which will exemplify diversity of research thought processes.	Faculty, undergraduate students, Program Director, chairs, deans, CUR Steering Committee, K-12 partners, and Southwest Georgia community.	(a) Schedule and host interest meetings for potential faculty and students interested in conducting CBPR and participating in the CBPR Undergraduate Research Learning Community. (b) Recruit faculty experts in various fields to conduct various trainings/ seminars. (c) Collaborate with the Center of Excellence and Community Engagement.	(a) Demonstrate interdisciplinary research with examples. (b) Create interdisciplinary research teams made up of faculty members and students (c) Provide resources for the teams. (d) Increase the number of topics focusing on interdisciplinary research (e) Increase the number of topics focusing on , Civic Engagement and Community-based Participatory Research (CECBPR) (f) Increased opportunities for faculty to work directly with students on meaningful active research activities and publication opportunities. (g) Developing a stronger relationship with community partners and local government leaders.	10/01/17-09/30/2022

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4.1 Create and implement action steps to increase the number of students engaged in undergraduate research and creative endeavors by working with the office of Academic Affairs, deans, chairpersons, faculty, and students.	Office of Academic Affairs, faculty, undergraduate students, Program Director, chairs, deans, CUR Steering Committee, and K-12 partners, and Southwest Georgia community.	a. Organize fall Undergraduate Research Symposium. b. Organize spring Undergraduate Research Colloquium. c. Host interest meetings for potential faculty and students interested in conducting Interdisciplinary Research and participating in the Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Learning Community. d. Recruit experts in the field to conduct various trainings/ seminars on how to conduct Interdisciplinary Research including the challenges and barriers and the structure of the undergraduate research learning community and expected outcomes. e. Work with academic departments and colleges to create at least two courses which strengthen undergraduate research. f. Provide additional workshop opportunities for students and faculty. g. Host GRE Prep trainings. h. Host workshops on the Graduate Admissions process beginning at the freshman year. i. .Host workshops on The Importance of Oral and Written Communication j. Host workshops on Publishing Your Work.	(a) The increased number of students prepared for graduate level studies through readiness and research intensive. (b) Works with career services to provide training for students on resume preparation and job preparation.	10/01/17-09/30/22	

PRAWARD No. _____

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5.1 Promote diversity in many and varied forms including among students, faculty, staff, gender, and fields of research	Faculty, undergraduate students, Program Director, chairs, deans, CUR Steering Committee, ASU Office of Students Affairs	a. Create communications announcing diversity. b. Promote racial, gender, and discipline diversity by reaching all members of the university community. c. Organize two or more research symposia at Albany State University every year, with at least one of them open to students and faculty from other colleges and universities. d. Conduct workshops on importance of diversity to undergraduate research and ASU Strategic Plan.	(a) The number of undergraduate research teams exemplifying diversity (b) The number of research topics focusing on diversity (c) The number of presentations made by faculty and students focusing on diversity.	10/01/17-09/30/22

P R A W A R D N o .

6.1 Implement action steps for faculty and student interest to garner competence and disposition to do research involving global, economic, social, health, and educational issues.	Chairs, Deans, faculty mentors, undergraduate students, Program Director, Office of Global Programs, and staff.	(a) Expository workshop on global programs (b) Schedule workshops on interdisciplinary global research. (c) Promoting student and faculty interest on topics involving global research.	(d) The number of faculty and students attending workshops focusing on global activities. (e) The number of research topics related to global research. (f) The number of presentations or publications focusing on global research.	10/01/17-09/30/22
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