As another academic year draws to a close, it is an excellent time to reflect on the many remarkable research-related accomplishments of our faculty from across all the campuses. Many CUNY faculty members are being recognized for their research achievements as well as for their entrepreneurial endeavors. First, allow me to mention that the 2014 winners of the CUNY Junior Faculty Research Award in Science and Engineering were recently named. You can read the impressive profiles of Elizabeth Biddinger, Gregory O’Mullan, Sebastien Poget, and Andrew Rosenberg, on page 6; please join me in congratulating them.

A number of faculty members have received significant honors or awards, or have authored major publications—the following are just a few examples. Steven Greenbaum from the Physics program at Hunter has been selected as a 2014-15 Jefferson Fellow. The Jefferson Science Fellows Program was created to augment and improve the level of science, technology and engineering expertise within the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Vinod Menon (Queens) was a co-author on a paper in *Physical Review Letters* that received a great deal of public attention. In collaboration with researchers from the University of Michigan, Dr. Menon’s NSF-funded study used light or photons to create links between organic and inorganic semiconductors in a mirror-lined nanoscale optical cavity.

Further, several CUNY faculty members have had success in their efforts to commercialize their technology innovations. On May 5, Sihong Wang (CCNY) was selected as one of the winners of the inaugural Pershing Square Sohn Prize for Young Investigators in Cancer Research for her work on creating an *in vitro* 3D human tumor model that uses patients’ own biopsy samples to facilitate high throughput drug screening. Announced in 2013 by Mayor Bloomberg, the Sohn Prize seeks to encourage collaboration among scientists, nonprofits, business investors, and the biotech and pharmaceutical industries to fight cancer and to create a pipeline for early-stage biomedical investments. As the recipient of an NSF Innovation Corps award for related work, Dr. Wang also participated in our Women and Entrepreneurship event in April (see page 8).

Intellectual property developed at the Institute of Ultrafast Spectroscopy and Lasers by Dr. Robert Alfano (CCNY) was used in the invention of a new medical device that went on the market in May. The Vein-Eye advanced vein visualization camera is a non-contact medical device that uses two of the salient properties of light—polarization and near infrared wavelengths—to visualize veins and allow for greater accuracy in vein punctures.

In related news, on page 4 we announce the first round of CUNY winners for the PowerBridgeNY Proof of Concept Center. Teams led by Alan Lyons (CSI) and Yiannis Andreopoulos (CCNY) will receive commercialization assistance for their innovative cleantech projects.

We relish the opportunity to publicize the successes of all of our faculty and students, so please contact us with your achievements!

Wishing everyone a great and productive summer –
Lehman’s GISc PSM Program Guides Students into High-Growth Careers in STEM

In fall 2012, Lehman College launched a Professional Science Master’s (PSM) program in Geographic Information Science (GISc).

Geographic Information Science (GISc) is a field that utilizes computer technologies to capture, analyze, and map all types of spatial data. Ten years ago the U.S. Department of Labor identified the geospatial technology sector as one of fourteen high-growth and economically vital sectors of the American economy, and the market has only continued to expand since then. An understanding of GISc is vital in the growing number of fields that utilize geographic information, including all governmental sectors and agencies, law enforcement, public health administration, real estate, urban planning, and education.

Lehman’s Department of Earth, Environmental, and Geospatial Sciences has been offering graduate-level courses in GISc since 2001, and the department was able to build on the popularity and success of these courses when developing its Master’s program. In July 2012, the department received final approval of the program from CUNY and the New York State Education Department. The MS-GISc program gained national affiliation with the National Professional Science Master’s Association (NPSMA) in January 2013. This was the first CUNY PSM to be affiliated with the national PSM association. The students will be required to choose a specialization in: Environmental and Health Spatial Sciences, Urban Sustainability, or GISc Technology.

In its second year, the MS-GISc Program at Lehman enrolls approximately 30 students; it welcomed sixteen new graduate students in the fall 2013. Several of the incoming GISc PSM students rose up through the Earth, Environmental, and Geospatial Science Department at Lehman, however the program has drawn graduates from other CUNY and area schools including Fordham University, New York University, SUNY Binghamton, and the College of Mount St. Vincent (one student came all the way from Iceland, where he was active in the GISc field).

Geographic Information Science software is used to map a variety of social, economic, and scientific data. Above, programmer’s have used GIS to map median household income in Ethiopia.

The GISc PSM already had its first two graduates in May 2013. Efrata Zegeye Asrat and Kristen Grady both began taking GISc graduate courses prior to the establishment of the PSM in GISc. In summer 2013, Ms. Asrat held an internship with the United Nations in Ethiopia, where she contributed to an atlas of HIV/AIDS for Ethiopia. Ms. Efrat was also on the organizing committee for the Global Geospatial Conference sponsored by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa held in Addis Ababa this past November. Kristen Grady secured a position as a GIS Specialist at NYC Office of Emergency Management even before graduating.

About Professional Science Master’s (PSM) Programs at CUNY

The GISc PSM at Lehman is one of five PSM programs have launched at CUNY since 2012, including Photonics (Queens), Earth Systems and Environmental Science and Technology (CCNY), Biotechnology & Public Health (Hunter) and a Biomedical Lab Management program (Hunter). The Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degree is a two-year graduate degree designed to enable students to pursue advanced training and excel in science while simultaneously developing valued professional skills with real world applications. The CUNY PSM programs combine Master’s level study in science or engineering, graduate courses in business, management, communications and/or other industry-relevant fields, and internships and cross-training at industry partner sites.

For more information about PSM programs at CUNY contact Eric Vieira at eric.vieira@cuny.edu or 646.664.8903.
Workshop Highlights
Plagiarism’s Difficult Dilemmas

On February 6, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research hosted a conference on “Plagiarism in Research: Common Pitfalls and Unforeseen Consequences” at The Graduate Center of CUNY. The guest speakers included Dr. Miguel Roig, Professor of Psychology at St. John’s University, Dr. David Wright, Director of the Office of Research Integrity at the Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Stephanie Bird, Co-Editor-In-Chief of Science and Engineering Ethics, and Dr. James Kroll, Director of Administrative Investigations at Office of the Inspector General.

Of the three categories of research misconduct as defined by the national research agencies (fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism), plagiarism is a growing concern. This topic is gaining attention in part because federal funding agencies and major publishers of scholarly journals have been employing new software-based detection systems to screen submissions—and have reported some eye-opening findings. There were over 100 attendees at the workshop, and the audience was very engaged, particularly during the question and answer portion of program. The hope is that information obtained by conference attendees will be shared among colleagues and peers and will raise awareness about this important area of concern.

How to Design Pedagogical Research

The Community College Collaborative Incentive Research Grant (C³IRG) workshop that focused on pedagogical research design was held on January 14 at BMCC. Over 150 faculty and staff registered for the event that featured breakout sessions on learning communities, remedial education and service learning—all aimed at assisting faculty members in preparing pedagogical research grant proposals. Michael Anderson from Brooklyn College explained logic models used for the assessment of student outcomes, and Farida Lada, Kathleen Offenholy, and Rachel Torres discussed issues related to the Institutional Review Board process. The workshop ended with a very successful poster session in which many past C³IRG winners presented their research projects. Thirty-two proposals were submitted in this year’s round of the C³IRG and the winners will be notified in August.

Keynote speaker Michael Anderson, Director of Academic Assessment at Brooklyn College, discusses Logic Models as a Tool to Plan and Assess Research Projects.

For more info on previous C³IRG winners, please visit:
http://www.cuny.edu/research/faculty-resources/internal-funding-programs/community-college-grant.html
NYCRIN Entrepreneurial Teams Complete First Regional Cohort

The NYC Regional Innovation Node (NYCRIN) hosted its first regional I-Corps program, based on the Lean LaunchPad methodology of hypothesis-driven customer discovery. The NYCRIN I-Corps is distinct from the NSF I-Corps course in that academic teams from schools within the NY, NJ, PA, CT region that have not received NSF funding are also eligible to apply.

The competitive application process resulted in a cohort of 34 team members organized into 10 single- and collaborative-university teams. Although the program did not aim to be sector-specific, all 10 admitted teams are developing technologies in the life sciences field.

The teaching team consisted of core instructors from CUNY, NYU, and Columbia. Additionally, co-instructors participated from organizations such as the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute, the Industrial & Technology Assistance Corporation, New Jersey Institute of Technology, the Field Center for Entrepreneurship based at Baruch College, the Law Offices of Douglas M. Scheinman, and the Community Development Venture Capital Alliance.

Overall, the inaugural NYCRIN I-Corps program was an exciting success. In 7 short weeks, the entrepreneurial teams conducted over 500 customer interviews via “Getting Out of the Building” to help them develop a valid and effective business model.

The next NYCRIN I-Corps cohort is currently accepting applications (deadline: August 29). For more information, email info@nycrin.org and watch the previous teams’ Lessons Learned videos available on the site. For more information about NYCRIN and the I-Corps training visit nycrin.org.

Governor Cuomo Announces PowerBridgeNY Winners

On May 12, 2014 Governor Cuomo announced the first round of award winners for PowerBridgeNY. In January 2013, the New York Polytechnic Institute of New York (NYU-Poly), received a grant from New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to form a Proof of Concept Center dedicated to helping New York State inventors and scientists turn their high-tech, clean-energy ideas into successful businesses. PowerBridgeNY is an important new engine for creating and fostering transformational cleantech entrepreneurship. Two teams from CUNY received funding from the PowerBridgeNY grant to help position their technology for licensing to an existing company or as a new venture.

Lyons and his team have designed a super-hydrophobic coating that can be applied to photovoltaic panels. The coating will reduce the dust and dirt accumulation that prevents sunlight from being reflected from the panels. This serves to increase the efficiency of solar panels in desert areas that are prone to severe dust accumulation.

Professor Yiannis Andreopoulos (CCNY) and his team also received PowerBridgeNY funding for their proposal, Improving energy efficiency of HVAC technology. Dr. Andreopoulos will develop a wireless network of sensors to measure air quality in order to optimize heating and cooling in buildings. The sensors will be powered by ambient energy available from their surroundings.
Rein Ulijn has been appointed founding director of the nanoscience initiative at CUNY’s new Advanced Science Research Center (ASRC). Dr. Ulijn joins CUNY from the University of Strathclyde, in Glasgow, Scotland, where he served as Vice Dean of Research at the university in addition to running his lab. He will also have an academic appointment as an Einstein Professor of Chemistry at Hunter College.

Dr. Ulijn’s nanoscience research—the study and control of matter on atomic and molecular scales—focuses on creating materials and systems that are inspired by biology and have unique “adaptive” properties that mimic biologic environments. His lab has a decided real-world orientation—Dr. Ulijn also holds seven patents. His discoveries have advanced stem cell research and drug development and tissue-engineering techniques designed to interfere with disease processes.

The ASRC, now nearing completion at the south end of the City College campus, will be the nucleus of a University-wide research enterprise that builds on the strengths CUNY has developed in five distinct but increasingly interconnected disciplines—nanoscience, photonics, structural biology, neuroscience and environmental sciences.

Dr. Ulijn was recently inducted as a fellow in the Royal Society of Edinburgh and is the recipient of some of Britain’s most prestigious scientific honors. He is the author of more than 110 peer-reviewed articles and has given more than 90 invited and keynote lectures at international conferences.

Dr. Ulijn said the ASRC nanoscience initiative will be distinctive in its focus on a “systems” approach: embracing complexity, in the same way that biology embraces complexity, and using it to overcome problems. Dr. Ulijn says, “This will present tremendous opportunities for the development of new ‘adaptive’ technologies for the treatment of disease, smarter manufacturing processes, and health care products.”

In November 2013, The Rockefeller Foundation awarded $444,997 to help launch the Science & Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, a major new initiative being led by CUNY. This grant supports both a needs assessment component and a plan for building organizational capacity, which will make it possible for all stakeholders to influence and employ resilience methodologies and practices in the revitalization of the Jamaica Bay recreational area. Hunter College Professor and Director of the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities William Solecki is the principal investigator on this project.

On August 12, 2013 the City University of New York was selected to lead a consortium charged with developing a new Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay (SRI@JB). This initiative began in November 2012, when researchers from across CUNY—including faculty based at the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities (Hunter), the NOAA Cooperative Remote Sensing Science and Technology Center (City College), and the Environmental CrossRoads Initiative (City College)—collaborated on a proposal submitted in response to a Request for Expressions of Interest issued by the City of New York and the National Park Service. This extraordinary CUNY-led consortium also includes Columbia University, Cornell University/New York Sea Grant, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, Rutgers University, Stevens Institute, Stony Brook University, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The SRI@JB will be a top-tier research institute dedicated to understanding and fostering resilience in urban ecosystems and their adjacent communities. The Institute will develop infrastructure and programming in partnership with academic institutions, non-profit organizations, the local community, and many other associations and public agencies actively engaged in and around Jamaica Bay.
Elizabeth Biddinger, *The City College of New York*

Dr. Elizabeth Biddinger joined the faculty of the CCNY Department of Chemical Engineering as an Assistant Professor in 2012. Before she came to City College, she received her doctorate from Ohio State University, and did cross-disciplinary post-doctoral work at Georgia Tech. These experiences placed Dr. Biddinger at the forefront of research in catalysis and the development of novel and environmentally friendly solvent systems, which has enabled her to create an original and innovative research program at CUNY.

Over the last year and a half, Dr. Biddinger has proved herself to be a highly active and dedicated faculty member, hired both for her superior scholarship and for her clear commitment to the CUNY mission of access to excellence in education. She has successfully established her Green Chemistry and Energy Laboratory at CCNY. Her current research group is comprised of six students and one postdoctoral fellow and she has also brought a number of undergraduates into her lab. Dr. Biddinger is not only an outstanding researcher, but also an excellent teacher and mentor; while at Ohio State, she received the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Outstanding Teaching Associate Award.

She has an impressive record of publications, with 18 peer-reviewed articles in highly ranked journals such as *Carbon*, *Chemical Communications*, and *ChemSusChem*. She has been successful in establishing support from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to use electrocatalytic methods to recover fission products.

Since coming to City College, she has also developed professional collaborations with a number of ionic liquids researchers across the CUNY system. Her intellectual contribution to exploring the catalytic aspects of ionic liquids has galvanized this community and has led to a number of multi-campus grant proposal submissions.

Gregory O’Mullan, *Queens College*

Gregory O’Mullan joined the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) at Queens College as an Assistant Professor in the fall of 2008. Combining basic and applied research on the ecology of microbes, his lab investigates aquatic environments, the factors influencing the quality of water resources, and also explores the policy implications of his research findings.

Dr. O’Mullan completed his PhD at Princeton University in 2005. As a postdoc he quickly established an unusually high level of responsibility, first with his Princeton advisor, Professor Bess Ward, and then as a researcher at Columbia’s Lamont Doherty lab from 2006 to 2008. He published 10 peer-reviewed articles prior to joining Queens College and has published 9 more since, in addition to numerous data reports, management papers, and op-ed articles. He has brought 10 external grants totaling nearly $700,000 to CUNY.

As a public academic, Dr. O’Mullan has been the subject of articles in *The New York Times* and has demonstrated exceptional civic engagement in his testimony before several government environmental panels. Through his efforts, tens of thousands of people who use the Hudson River for recreation are safer: his scientific evidence laid the groundwork for more comprehensive water quality testing by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection.

Dr. O’Mullan also has a strong record of mentoring undergraduate and graduate students in independent research, and extensive teaching experience in both introductory and upper level courses in Environmental Science. The research he will undertake with the JFRASE award will further contribute to the public good through a better understanding of the linkages between human waste discharges into New York City waters and our own health. Using DNA sequencing his lab will create a modern survey of microorganisms living in the Hudson River.
Sebastien Poget, College of Staten Island

Since joining the faculty of the Chemistry Department at the College of Staten Island in 2009, Dr. Sebastien Poget has made impressive progress on some very challenging membrane protein structural biology projects. Dr. Poget is the recipient of an NSF CAREER Award and has also received a number of internal CUNY research awards.

Dr. Poget graduated with a PhD from Cambridge University (working in the lab of Sir Alan Fresht) in 2001, and went on to postdoctoral work at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (with Mark Girvin) and Rockefeller University (with Nobel laureate Roderick McKinnon), where he acquired a strong interest in understanding ion channels.

Dr. Poget's research focuses on the functional and structural understanding of the interaction between natural peptide toxins and their respective ion channel targets. This work is the basis for his current NSF CAREER grant. These ion channels are promising targets in the treatment of a variety of conditions, and the gating-modifier toxins can lead to the development of new drugs for modulating channel activity in a specific and controlled way. Dr. Poget has already published some promising early results in *Biomolecular NMR* and has several more manuscripts in preparation.

Dr. Poget's lab, which includes postdoctoral associates, graduate students and undergraduates, is engaged in a vigorous research program in the field of ion channel voltage-sensor toxins. In addition to the aforementioned project on the potassium channel activating snake toxin, the lab is also working on the structural interactions between several sodium channel voltage sensing domains and their specific gating-modifier toxins from tarantula and scorpion venoms.

Andrew Rosenberg, Queens College

Dr. Andrew Rosenberg joined the Department of Computer Science at Queens College in 2009. In the past few years he has published 39 refereed conference papers and journal articles in the field of computational linguistics and speech processing, and has rapidly established a high-profile and very productive research laboratory comprised of eight Ph.D. students, two masters students, and several undergraduate researchers.

Dr. Rosenberg graduated in 2009 with a PhD in Computer Science from Columbia University, where he studied with Professor Julia Hirschberg. Dr. Rosenberg's research interests and achievements center around a key area of human language processing and speech synthesis commonly referred to as prosody. Prosody is the study of the rhythm, stress, and intonation of speech, both in terms of better understanding of how humans communicate, and in terms of better computational methods for voice-based computer-human interaction.

Dr. Rosenberg's work is at the forefront of his field—as evidenced by his remarkable success in obtaining more that $2M in research grants in recent years. In March 2014 he was awarded the prestigious NSF CAREER award for his work on prosodic analysis. He has also received significant federal funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), and the office of Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA). Dr. Rosenberg also holds two US patents.

In 2013, Dr. Rosenberg took on the role of Director of the Computational Linguistics program at The Graduate Center. In this capacity, he has been able to shape the growth of CUNY-wide research efforts in computational linguistics and make contributions to the research life of CUNY that extend well beyond his own laboratory at Queens. In addition to his work at CUNY, he is also a Senior Software Engineer at the IBM TJ Watson Research Center. He worked on the speech synthesis team that produced the Watson supercomputer system that competed on Jeopardy! in 2011.
2013 Nobel Challenge Winners Announced

This year’s CUNY Nobel Science Challenge awards ceremony took place on February 26 at CUNY Central Office. The essay competition invites CUNY undergraduate students to describe the scientific concepts underlying the work of the 2013 Nobel winners in Physiology/Medicine, Physics, Chemistry, and Economics. Winning essays make the scientific achievements being recognized by the Nobel Prize interesting and accessible to the lay reader.

In order to select the winners, CUNY Professors form committees to review all the essays submitted in each of the four categories. The chairs for each division were: Ruth Stark (Chemistry); Jane Raper (Physiology and Medicine); V. P. Nair (Physics); and Robert A. Schwartz (Economics).

The February awards ceremony reflected the commitment to the ideals and struggle of scientific discovery that is embodied by the Nobel Prize. In addition to distinguished professors, faculty and administrators from many CUNY colleges were in attendance.

Women in Science: Women and Entrepreneurship

On April 29, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and the New York City Regional Innovation Node (NYCRIN) organized an informational session on the topic of Women and Entrepreneurship.

This event was designed to provide valuable information about the resources available at CUNY and in the NYC innovation network to students, postdocs, and faculty who wish to pursue the development of technologies for commercial and humanitarian use.

Speakers from the CUNY Technology Commercialization Office, the Research Compliance office, and NYCRIN discussed various topics including licensing agreements, clinical trials, and the NSF Innovation Corps training.

The event also featured an exciting roundtable discussion among three teams of CUNY women faculty innovators, who are currently in the midst of customer discovery to determine the commercial viability of their technology concepts.
Congratulations to our 2014 Postdoc Travel Awardees

The aim of this program is to provide postdoctoral associates at CUNY support for presenting scholarly activities at national or international conferences.

Helen Nasser, PhD - Brooklyn College, Psychology Department
“Do timing and associative effects come from the same underlying set of mechanisms or different ones?”
Presenting her work at the Associative Learning Symposium, XXVIII Meeting in Wales, UK

Adric Riedel, PhD - Hunter College, Department of Physics and Astronomy
“Our Youngest Neighbors: Brown Dwarfs in Nearby Moving Groups”
Presented his work at the 223rd American Astronomical Society Meeting in Washington, DC

Lena Saleh, PhD - Hunter College, Center for HIV/AIDS Educational Studies and Training (CHEST)
“Tailoring Recruitment Strategies for HIV Risk Reduction Interventions for Transgender Women of Color: Lessons learned from the T-Talk Pilot.”
Presenting her work at the 2014 National STD Prevention Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

Bo Wen, PhD - City College of New York, Department of Physics
“Superconducting 1D edge contact to encapsulated graphene”
Presented his work at the American Physical Society Meeting in Denver, Colorado

For more information, please visit
http://www.cuny.edu/research/postdoctoral-development-program.html

Partnership with Columbia, NYU and Cornell Advances Computer Science Career Development

The Computing Research Association (CRA) — the umbrella organization of the Computing Community Consortium (CCC) — has awarded CUNY, Columbia University, NYU and Cornell University/NYC Cornell-Technion a three-year $1.2M grant to implement best practices for computer science career development. The ASCENT (Advancing Computer Science Careers through Enhanced Networking and Training) program, commencing in Fall 2014, will consist of a series of workshops, seminars, courses and career symposia that supplement the training and education received through traditional approaches. By adopting a consortium model, the schools hope to strengthen the ties between the partnering NYC institutions, and to create significant momentum to drive local economic development and job creation within NY.

For more information, please contact Eric Vieira PhD – Director of Special Research Programs in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (e-Mail: eric.vieira@cuny.edu; P: 646.664.8903)
On February 7, CUNY students participated in a design workshop offered as part of the Global Designs for UNICEF Challenge program. The Challenge is an online competition that guides students through the process of developing viable solutions to some of the world’s most pressing problems related to child health and survival. The workshop, held at John Jay College, was a new addition to the Challenge this year, intended to provide context, tools, and strategies to help students apply design thinking in their approach. More than 70 students listened to design experts and UNICEF professionals who outlined some of the challenges presented by designing solutions at a distance for problems on the ground in other countries. The program with CUNY was so successful last year that it has been expanded to two new universities: the American University of Beirut (AUB) and Lebanese American University (LAU).

Norah Maki, the Challenge’s Program Assistant and a graduate student in the Design for Social Innovations program at the School of Visual Arts, led the students through exercises in systems thinking and solution mapping to help them begin to plan their projects. Over the next 4 months, students will develop their ideas using a series of guided checkpoints, and the top teams will be selected to present their proposal in person to a panel of experts. The top CUNY team will win a chance to work with a UNICEF Country Office to test their idea in the field.

“You are building for difficult circumstances. You have to adapt and be fluid.” —Mac Glovinsky, Lead of Innovation in Humanitarian Action at UNICEF.

70 CUNY students gathered at John Jay College to kick off the second year of the Global Designs for UNICEF Challenge. Norah Maki (right) leads students through a system and solution mapping exercise.
CUNY Colleges Attend Summit on Undergraduate Research in Alexandria, VA

By Rachel Verni
Director of Undergraduate Research, Hunter College

The CUR Summit Meeting for State Systems and Consortia, held March 28-30, in Alexandria, Virginia offered a wonderful opportunity to network with faculty and administrators from CUNY, as well as from five other state systems and consortia. Teams of CUNY faculty and administrators from all eleven four-years colleges and from six community colleges participated in the intensive workshop. The meeting included plenaries and breakout sessions to accommodate inter-and intra-system/consortia dialogue around relevant topics. It enabled attendees to share best practices and collectively strategize ways of overcoming challenges to improving undergraduate research on the campuses.

Two of the plenary sessions were extremely helpful in shedding light on current priorities for funding agencies. Themes from these talks emphasized agencies’ interest in proposals that incorporate research-based learning, are supported by robust evidence, and are geared toward enhancing the institution and community at large. Building on these plenaries, conversations throughout the meeting pointed to the value of integrating research into the classroom as a way of engaging students early in their academic careers, and of exposing a larger student population to research.

Conference sessions also highlighted the importance of metrics that provide evidence of the benefits of undergraduate research endeavors. The breakout session entitled Measuring the Impacts on Our Campuses, in particular, sparked a lively conversation with respect to assessment and evaluation; I walked away with a lengthy list of surveys that other campuses have employed for assessing the impact of undergraduate research on their campuses. Moreover, this dialogue helped me, as the Director for Undergraduate Research at Hunter, to determine the optimal criteria to target when gathering student data that produces meaningful evidence in support of our undergraduate research initiatives.

Overall, the meeting stressed the importance of relying on faculty partners and shared resources to create a culture of research on our campuses that both encourages inquiry-based learning and actively engages our students inside and outside of the classroom. I look forward to sustaining the momentum gained during the CUR Summit and to collaborating with my CUNY colleagues to implement the ideas generated during this fruitful event.
Research and teaching are often thought of as distinct aspects of faculty scholarship. Students can participate in research in professors’ laboratories, however, these applied educational experiences, based on an apprenticeship model, have practical limitations grounded in the faculty to student ratio. An alternative model integrates authentic research projects into the classroom as a means of broadening participation by undergraduates in research. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research is supporting the integration of research into the curriculum with a workshop and a new idea grant program.

The workshop, Research in the Classroom – Integrating Authentic Research into the Undergraduate Curriculum was held on April 23 at the Graduate Center. The workshop featured a platform presentation by Mitch Malachowski from the University of San Diego, who discussed the challenges and benefits of integrating research into classroom across the disciplines. This was followed by breakout sessions that introduced several models for integrating research into the curriculum that CUNY faculty have already implemented in biology, chemistry, mathematics, psychology and across disciplines at community colleges. Michael Anderson from Brooklyn College closed the workshop with a presentation about assessment approaches for classroom-based research.

The idea grant program is aimed at all CUNY tenured and tenure-track faculty who want to test new ideas for integrating their authentic research projects into the curriculum. The deadline for submission is September 12. The 3-page proposals should discuss the research question, describe how the research will be implemented in a classroom setting, and include a plan for assessing student outcomes. Up to 6 awards will be given, and the funds will be allocated for one-course release (or $5,000) and up to $2,500 for supplies.

More information about the new pilot program, including guidelines for submission, and current models by CUNY faculty for integrating research into the curriculum, please visit:

www.cuny.edu/research

Did You Know?

The Undergraduate Research Page
www.cuny.edu/research/sr/undergrad-research offers:
- Listing of undergraduate research opportunities for students at each of the campuses
- Information for faculty on undergraduate research, including funding opportunities
- Upcoming events at across the university