Falcon Promise
FY14 Annual Report

Falcon Promise Area: Falcon Grants
Project Manager: Lissa Schneider-Rebozo

Please use the space below to briefly describe the use of funds in your Falcon Promise area.
Please keep responses to two pages.

A description of how funds were used:

Falcon Grants is a program designed to support and encourage students to participate in undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activities (URSCA). FY 2014 is the last year for Falcon Grants to fund both Falcon Travel Grants (for disseminating research) and Falcon Project Grants (for expenses and supplies associated with conducting research). Moving forward into FY 2015, the Falcon Grants fund will offer funding only for travel costs associated with dissemination; the Falcon Project Grant has been made redundant by the Falcon Promise Undergraduate Stipends and Expenses (USE) grant fund, which is paid out through the Expanded Undergraduate Research Opportunities fund. All Falcon Grant funds are awarded through a competitive grant process for undergraduates.

A description of the location(s) where the funding was used:

- In FY 2014, undergraduates who received Falcon Project Grant funding for URSCA supplies and expenses typically used their grants on the UWRF campus (in STEM labs, at the lab farm, in the art studios, etc)
- In FY 2014, undergraduates who received Falcon Travel Grant funding in individual or group categories traveled all over the United States to present their research:
  - Atlanta, GA
  - Baltimore, MD
  - Canyon, TX
  - Chicago, IL
  - Collegeville, MN
  - Jasper, AR
  - Las Vegas, NV
  - Lexington KY
  - Madison, WI
  - Milwaukee, WI
  - Minneapolis, MN
  - Oakland, CA
  - Omaha, Nebraska
  - Rochester, MN
  - Tampa Bay, FL
  - Tuscaloosa, AL
  - Verona, WI

Identify the amount of funds used for salaries and fringe benefits, supplies and expenses, equipment, and remodeling by location. Purchases in excess of $5,000 shall be individually itemized:

- There are no salaries or fringe benefits associated with Falcon Grant expenditures.
- There are no equipment purchases over $5000.00 (Falcon Project Grants had a cap of $750.00 per project; Falcon Travel Grants have a maximum award of $1000.00 per student to disseminate research)
- Supplies and Expenses, including all Project grant research supplies and expenses and all Travel grant expenses:
Describe the goals/benchmarks for your area:

Falcon Grants are awarded following a competitive process; proposals are reviewed by SURSCA (the Society for Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity), a student organization. In FY 2014 SURSCA was advised by Administrative Advisor Molly Van Wagner and by Faculty Advisor Lissa Schneider-Rebozo. In general terms, the goal for Falcon Grants is to enhancing the culture of URSCA on our campus. More specifically, our goals are to broaden participation at dissemination events that showcase UWRF campus URSCA. To this end it is a campus priority for Falcon Grants to support **SURSCA; the **UWRF Fall Gala (an on-campus dissemination event sponsored by SURSCA; and to support UWRF undergraduate student travel to **NCUR (National Conference on Undergraduate Research). It is also important for Falcon Grants to support individual and group travel to **UW System, **WiSys, and **discipline-specific conferences that showcase undergraduate research.

If a competitive process was used to allocate funding among students, 1) describe the process for allocating funds and 2) identify the total number of students that applied for funding and the number of students that received funding.

The process used for allocating funds is a biannual (Fall and Spring) grant review conducted by SURSCA members under the supervision, in FY 14, of SURSCA Administrative Advisor, Molly Van Wagner and SURSCA Faculty Advisor, Lissa Schneider-Rebozo. SURSCA members score each application to Falcon Grants using a judging rubric that is available online. Proposals are scored in two categories: a quantitative category that allows for numeric scoring of each specific element of the grant proposal, and a holistic category of “award/don’t award/discuss.” Scores are submitted in advance of the meeting to discuss scores and determine awards. If all reviewers vote to award, and the advisors agree that nothing improper has been requested, that proposal is funded. If reviewers have checked the box “discuss” or “don’t award” in the holistic category, then regardless of numeric score the proposal comes under discussion at the review meeting. The numeric score is especially useful in the event that Falcon Grants were to run short on funds, as it can allow for limiting awards beyond a certain cut off point even if all reviewers had originally voted to “fund” The process allows a student peer review process for all applications. The URSCA office sends out letters to all applicants informing them of their award status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Undergraduates</th>
<th>Who applied for Falcon Grant funding in FY 14</th>
<th>Who received Falcon Grant funding in FY 14</th>
<th>Total in FY 14 PAID OUT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>173</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>133</td>
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****Note that that FY 15 is already well underway, and that the Fall Round of FY 15 has broadened participation in record numbers: we had 151 students apply; 149 students were awarded; with total requested of $65,210.00, and total awarded $47,564.00. We are also committed to NCUR, which will be more expensive due to its location in Eastern Washington State: we anticipate 65,000-68,000 in NCUR expenses in Spring 2015. We also anticipate $2000 for Fall Gala and SURSCA in Fall 2014 (FY 15); and at least $30,000.00 for Falcon Travel grants in the Spring round of FY 15, to total: $144,564.00. We request an infusion of funds into the Falcon Grants account to meet this need in FY 15.