Falcon Promise
FY12 Annual Report

Falcon Promise Area: Falcon Grants (Original Differential Tuition Program)
Project Manager: Timothy Lyden, Ph.D.

A description of how funds were used:

Falcon Grants is a competitive undergraduate student RSCA-related funding program which has been in existence for the past six years. The program operates through a competitive grants process that is administered through the UWRF SURSCA organization. SURSCA is the campus-wide student RSCA organization self-charged with enhancing the climate and culture of RSCA across disciplines and colleges for all students. The Falcon Grants program was established by the first Differential Tuition established at UWRF in 2006-07. This program distributes funds to assist students mainly in “travel to present” and “in support of RSCA projects” competitive grants. From the inception of SURSCA in 2001-02 and Falcon Grants in 2006-07, this has included a significant commitment to UWRF student participating in the National Conference on Undergraduate Research or NCUR. In that time, 2002-2012, more than 500 students have participated in this major national meeting. This past year the same emphasis applied to Falcon Grant funds with nearly 48 UWRF students traveling to Ogden, Utah for the NCUR 2012 meeting. In addition, another 61 students traveled to other meetings across the nation or received support for their RSCA projects (49 for travel and 12 for RSCA projects).

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

Falcon Grants funding is used across the campus, in the local economy and beyond to national and even international settings. The details of where funds are used depend on each project or travel event funded. This year the major single total cost item was the air travel costs to NCUR for 48 students. However, the individual costs per student for that travel were actually lower than commercial ticket prices due to our chartering of an entire plane and cost sharing with other institutions from across the region.
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:

No funds from the Falcon Grants program were used for salaries, fringe benefits, equipment or remodeling. Supplies and expense expenditures amounted to a total of $70,148.67. In this amount, the following items were in excess of $5,000:

Group and regional airplane charter NCUR 2012...$172,473.04*** (UWRF portion from Falcon Grants = $29,416.40, final costs per student $612.84)
Group Hotel for NCUR 2012...$6,591.76
Group conference registration NCUR 2012...$8,140
Mid-West Psychology conference group travel...$8,223.84

*** This was the total cost of chartering two 737 airliners from SunCountry with a consortium of schools from around the region. This group has chartered these planes for the past three years as a significant cost saving mechanism. The average cost per student traveler this year was $613.84 while the average airline ticket to Utah was approximately $850.00. This represented a savings of about $240 for each traveler (approximate savings to UWRF were $11,384.00 and the total consortium savings were about $62,609.80).

Describe the goals/benchmarks for your area:

As stated above, the goal of the Falcon Grants program is to foster and enhance the climate and culture of undergraduate student RSCA across the UWRF campus.

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.

1.) The Falcon Grants Program is a competitive grants program which is also uniquely student peer-reviewed. The program is administered by the campus-wide student RSCA organization SURSCA (Society for Undergraduate Research, Creative and Scholarly Activities). Within this group there is a “Grants Committee” which meets twice a year to review grant submissions and score them according in adherence to the published program guidelines/instructions. The grants are presented to this peer committee in anonymous formats and the activities of the committee are monitored/mentored by the SURSCA Faculty Advisor. This ensures the proper review criteria are applied and that individual student applications are fairly evaluated. Once the committee reviews are completed, the resulting percentile scores are submitted to the Faculty Advisor, who in consultation with the Administrative Advisor and based on available funds in a given cycle, determines the final dollar awards for each grant. Every effort is made to award the maximum possible support in each case.

2.) This past year 2010-11, a total of 67 awards were made to 109 students, which comes out to an average of $643.57 each.