Northern Illinois University
2017 Community Engagement Show
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who attends Undergraduate Research & Artistry Day, and is there a cost?
A: Everyone is welcome! Faculty, undergraduate students, graduate students, alumni, family, friends, and the NIU and DeKalb communities! The Community Engagement Showcase may be particularly useful for students interested in applying to graduate school, especially for students who do not have presentation experience. This event is open to the public and free for all attendants.

Q: What are the benefits to undergraduate student attendees?
A: Students will be able to see what a conference entails without having to spend the money to get there. Students will also learn about what a poster presentation might include, service projects happening in various departments, and network with undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty in a variety of disciplines. Representatives from different colleges will be in attendance to answer questions and provide information.

Q: Who can participate?
A: Any currently enrolled undergraduate student who has participated in community-based service or research, including work completed during a service learning course, internship, or student organization, is eligible to showcase his/her work at this event. All students are welcome to attend the event.

Q: What do I need to do to participate?
A: If you are interested in participating in this event, please register via the CES Website. The deadline to register is Friday, March 24, 2017.

TO REGISTER & PARTICIPATE
1. Submit your 2017 CES Registration by Friday, March 24, 2017. If you wish to present two projects or one CES and one URAD project, you must register each project separately. Space is limited but all students will be guaranteed one presentation at CES.
2. Review your abstract/project description when you receive "Abstract Confirmation" email.
3. Complete your poster (32" x 40") and, if you are printing it through Creative Services, submit to Creative Services by Monday, April 17, 2017.
4. Present on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

Q: What projects are eligible?
A: Any currently enrolled undergraduate student who has participated in community-based service or research, including work completed during a service learning course, internship, or student organization, is eligible to showcase his/her work at this event. All students are welcome to attend the event.

Q: What types of presentations are accepted?
A: Posters are the only presentation type accepted, although students are welcome to bring items to display along with their poster. Poster guidelines and suggestions can be downloaded here. Posters should be no larger than 32" x 40". The poster will hang by pushpins on a show wall. No foam boards will be allowed. Poster presenters should be prepared to stand next to their poster for the entire duration of their scheduled presentation time and should prepare a 3 minute overview of their project. The poster will be displayed for the entire event.
Q: Why should I present at NIU’s Community Engagement Showcase?
A: Benefits of participating in the Community Engagement Showcase include working one-on-one with a faculty mentor or community member, while giving you a chance to develop a better understanding of your service and how it affects the community. You also have the opportunity to practice presenting ideas to others (communication skills), develop your vita, and explore more about a career in service.

Q: May a student be a presenter on more than one poster?
A: A student may not be a primary presenter on more than one poster.

Q: Must I be a major in a subject to present on that topic?
A: No, but you must have worked under the guidance of a faculty member.

Q: Will I receive academic credit?
A: No, you will be recognized as participant in this campus-wide event. There are some departments that are offering participation in this event in lieu of other assignments. In addition, you may be eligible to submit your service-learning experience through Engage PLUS.

Q: Will there be awards?
A: Yes. There will be awards based on student’s presentation skills and abilities. Detailed information about this can be found on the CES Student Resources page. Previous winners are highlighted on the CES Awards page.

Q: How are student winners determined?
A: Judges will use a standardized rubric to evaluate the posters, digital media, and exhibits. They will look at the overall organization and clarity of your poster and brief presentation.

Q: What is Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day?
A: URAD is an event that recognizes undergraduate students who have participated in a faculty-mentored research or artistry project.