What is a Simmon Scholar?
The Research Rookies program received its first significant gift from Jaymie and Harry Simmon who want to provide scholarship and program support for Research Rookies at Northern Illinois University (NIU). Each year, the Research Rookies program selects five (5) students from science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) or health fields who demonstrate academic excellence to be selected as Simmon Scholars.

What is required of a Simmon Scholar?
Simmon Scholars are required to:

- Have a declared major in a STEM or health field
- Assist the Office of Student Engagement and Experiential Learning (OSEEL) including the Northern Lights Ambassadors (NLA) with class presentations and open house events about engaged learning and undergraduate research opportunities on campus
- Write additional blog posts for their Research Rookies blog each month

What are the benefits of being a Simmon Scholar?
Simmon Scholars have the opportunity to share their undergraduate research experiences with the NIU campus and surrounding communities.

Simmon Scholars also receive an additional $500 stipend ($1000 total, including the $500 stipend all Research Rookies receive) at the completion of the program.

How do I apply to be a Simmon Scholar?
Research Rookies in STEM or health fields interested in becoming a Simmon Scholar should answer the following questions:

- Why is it important for you to participate in undergraduate research in your field of study?
- In what ways do you plan to share your undergraduate research experiences with the NIU campus and surrounding communities?

Please answer the aforementioned questions in a Word Document. Your responses should be 1,000 words or less, using Times New Roman 12-point font, double-spaced.

Your responses should be emailed to ResearchRookies@niu.edu no later than Friday, November 4, 2016 at 4:30pm.