Orientation Goals

• Program information and goals
• Expectations
• Research Rookies schedule and meetings
• Other program components & resources
“Behind every successful person, there is one elementary truth: somewhere, somehow, someone cared about their growth and development. This person was their mentor”

*Dr. Beverly Kaye, Up Is Not the Only Way, 1997*
Northern Illinois University

Program Information and Goals
Research Rookies Fast Facts

- 8th year of the program
- About 300 students in the program to date
- 45 students this year
- Students representing the CLAS, CEET, CHHS, and COB
- First-semester freshman and transfer students as well as sophomores
Research Rookies Fast Facts

• Past Research Rookies have gone on to become:
  – Lincoln Laureates
  – USOAR Award Winners
  – Forward Together Forward Scholarship Recipients
  – FermiLab summer interns
  – McKearn Fellows

• Past Research Rookies have gone on to present at regional, national, and international conferences in their field
Program Description

• Participate with faculty mentor to develop, understand and complete a research or artistry project
• Spend approximately 5-10 hours per week on the project
• Participate in formal programming (i.e. monthly meetings)
Program Goals

• Engage students in faculty-mentored research and/or artistry
• Provide a positive learning environment through hands-on experience
• Help students pursue their goals
• Introduce students to research and artistry
• Develop relationships with like-minded peers
• Give students the opportunity to present at Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day (URAD)
Monthly Cohort Meetings

• Meetings are mandatory
• Students are asked to come prepared
  – Bring pen & paper to take notes
  – Be prepared to give updates on progress
• First Wednesday of each month
• Typical agenda:
  – Guest speaker(s)
  – Small group activity
  – Announcements
Monthly Cohort Meetings

• Topics reviewed so far
  – Handbook/expectations
    • OSEEL Staff/Research Rookies program
  – Proposal guidelines
    • Student Coordinator for Research Rookies and Small Groups
  – Leadership Development
    • Dr. Renique Kersh
  – Stress Management
    • Campus Recreation and Wellness Staff
Role of Research Rookies Peer Mentors

• Assist with questions or concerns from small-group members
• Coordinate one group activity or meeting per month with small-group members
• Notify OSEEL staff of any issues with small-group members
• Follow up with students
• Attend mandatory monthly Peer Mentor meetings
• Help first-year Research Rookies become familiar with university resources
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Expectations
Faculty Mentors

• Provide learning resources and necessary tools for the research/artistry project
• Meet with the student to plan and complete the project
• Attend the OSEEL Reception
• Discuss aspects of academic and research life with student while working with the student on project
• Assist the student with preparation of proposal and project materials for presentation at URAD
• Attend major presentations that the student makes on the NIU campus (i.e. URAD)
• Notify the OSEEL staff as needed of student progress, performance, change of research focus, or any problems in the mentoring relationship
Time Commitment

• Students should expect to spend **5-10 hours per week** conducting research
• These 5-10 hours may include:
  – Writing proposal
  – Conducting literature review
  – Working with a GA
  – Working in lab
  – Working with faculty member (one-on-one meetings, time in lab)
Program Schedule and Important Dates
Dates & Deadlines

• Due Date for Proposals
  – Outline due Wednesday, November 1
  – Revised outline and rough draft: Sunday, November 19
  – Final: Sunday, February 25, 2018
• Simmons Scholar Application
  – Closes Sunday, November 19
• Annual OSEEL Reception
  – Friday, December 1
• Undergraduate Research & Artistry Day (URAD)
  – Registration closes Sunday, March 25, 2018
  – Actual event on Wednesday, April 18, 2018
Simmon Scholars

• Gift from Jaymie and Harry Simmon
• Support for five students from a STEM or health field
• Awarded this honor for their academic performance and commitment to Research Rookies
• Simmon Scholars are:
  – Required to have a declared major in a STEM field
  – Assist OSEEL with class presentations and undergraduate research opportunities on campus
  – Awarded an additional $500 at the completion of the program
• Deadline to apply is Sunday, November 19, 2017
OSEEL Reception

- Practice their “elevator pitch” and networking skills with peers and administrators
- Honors students, faculty mentors, community/campus partners in OSEEL programs
- 11:30am-1:30pm on Friday, December 1
- Altgeld Auditorium
- Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres
UG Research & Artistry Day (URAD)

• University-wide event for all students who participated in research and artistry to present their work
• Judged event
• 9:00am to 2:00pm on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 in the Holmes Student Center, Duke Ellington Ballroom
• Registration closes Sunday, March 25, 2018
Additional Program Components & Resources
Stipend

• $500 upon successful completion of the program
• Students will receive stipend, ONLY if:
  – Present at URAD
  – In good academic standing
  – Have less than 3 meeting absences during school year
• Additional $500 for Simmons Scholars
• Additional $250 for Peer Mentors
Supply Money

- The Research Rookies program can offer up to $200 for project-related expenses
- Complete the Research Project Purchase Request on the Faculty Mentor Resources page
  - Must submit request by Friday, April 13th
  - Includes justification for request
Resources

• Research Rookies Website
  – www.niu.edu/researchrookies

• NIU Faculty Development Portal
  – Responsible Conduct in Research Mentoring is an online training module for faculty engaged in research mentoring.
Office of Student Engagement & Experiential Learning
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