

May 13, 2016

On behalf of Central Washington University, I welcome you to the 2061 Symposium of University Research and Creative Expression. SOURCE is CWU's largest, multidisciplinary event and is also the longest running university-associated student symposium in our state. This year marks a significant millstone, as it is our first two-day SOURCE. The growth of SOURCE has been nothing short of phenomenal in terms of both participation and attendees.

The first event, held 21 years ago, showcased the work of 23 undergraduate's students. By 2015, that number had increased to 550 presenters and their work was seen by 4,300 attendees. Even more presentation, and attendance, is expected this year, which is the reason we have –by necessity– expanded to a two-day event. Actually, SOURCE is four days in length, as there are smaller, but no less important, companion events at our campuses in Des Moines and Lynnwood.

Regardless of location, SOURCE allows us to celebrate the tremendous quality, quantity, and diversity of creative achievements, research, and scholarship produced by our undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, and alumni. There will be oral and poster presentations, along with performances involving sciences, history, literature, and education research, as well as creative writing, music, theatre, and art. SOURCE further sets itself apart through inclusion of area elementary, middle, high school, and RUNNING Start student, along with community members, who take advantage of an atypical opportunity for them to also present their scholarly endeavors.

Through the years, SOURCE has relied on dedicated faculty and staff, who mentor students in research, scholarship, and creative projects; students who utilize their time, energy, and intellectual curiosity to complete projects, and committed university personnel and student volunteers who labor behind the scenes. Last year, 70 volunteers and more than 100 judges, who offered their invaluable professional feedback to our presenters, selflessly offered their time and expertise to facilitate SOURCE. We expect a like number this year and I want to express my gratitude to each and every one of them for their vital efforts.

As in the past, SOURCE 2016 has received key contributions from administrators, notably Dr. Anne Egger; director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, and generous financial contributions from university academic and administrative units, individuals, and corporate and community sponsors. I also want to thank this year's 27-SOURCE committee, comprised of faculty, staff, and students representing all areas of the university, which was chaired by Jamie Gilbert. I am very appreciative of its efforts. It is through such contributions that SOURCE is now routinely regarded as one of the premier events of its kind.

Again, welcome to SOURCE, a two-day community celebration of which we all can-and should-be very proud.

Sincerely,

PLACEHOLDER

CWU