



April 4, 2009

Dear CAURS Participants, Supporters and Guests:

On behalf of Northwestern University, I am delighted to welcome you to the 2009 Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium. As a research university, Northwestern is pleased to help sponsor this symposium and the research activities of undergraduate students. It is gratifying to have so many students showcase their ideas and research through poster sessions and presentations.

Research is an integral part of higher education and is vital to the advancement of the new knowledge that will benefit mankind. I hope that your participation here will strengthen your appreciation of the research process and encourage you to invest yourself even further in it. By engaging in research projects, you gain valuable insight into a topic area, strengthen your critical thinking skills and integrate your learning more deeply. Hopefully, some of you will become accomplished researchers and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in your chosen field of endeavor.

I want to acknowledge the American Undergraduate Research Society for its efforts to promote excellence in undergraduate research. In addition, I want to recognize the symposium sponsors whose support made this event possible. Your support of undergraduate research will help to create the next generation of scholars and researchers. Finally, I thank all the student organizers of this symposium. Coordinating this cross-university program involves a great deal of time and effort; their dedication to this exceptional event is apparent and appreciated.

Best wishes for a successful symposium.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Bienen".

Henry S. Bienen
President