Engineering Education Faculty Get NSF Grant to Promote Undergraduate Research

There’s a growing effort in higher education to encourage more undergraduate students to learn the basics of research early on. Proponents say undergraduate research experiences increase students’ understanding, confidence, awareness and interest in STEM subjects. In addition, research experiences help students develop social and leadership skills that help them succeed in future careers.

USU professors of engineering education Dr. Oenardi Lawanto and Dr. Wade Goodridge recently secured a grant from the National Science Foundation to create a new Research Experiences for Undergraduates, or REU, site at USU. Each year for three years, a cohort of nine undergraduates will take part in a 10-week experience.

The program is designed to offer opportunities for participants to engage in authentic research tasks, both individually and collaboratively, as well as an opportunity to gain experience in managing project deliverables. This REU has the potential to open a conduit to attract new graduate students and STEM professionals into educational research.

Undergraduate research experiences have shown to help students develop social and leadership skills.

Learn more about this work here.

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