2013-2014 CHANCELLOR’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

Faculty Recipients:

Professor Allen Mills, Physics and Astronomy:

In 13 years at the University of California, Riverside, Dr. Allen Mills has mentored 37 undergraduate students in laboratory research, despite having an industrial background which offered little experience in working with students. Of those 37 students, ten have co-authored journal articles with Dr. Mills (four of which appeared in peer-reviewed journals) and eight have obtained or are pursuing PhDs at some of the leading institutions in the country. Dr. Mills believes one of his main roles as an instructor is to challenge and inspire students not only to learn, but to achieve goals beyond what they themselves think they are capable of. Dr. Mills is dedicated to ensuring opportunities are available for minority students, having mentored 13 minority students.

Professor Jingsong Zhang, Chemistry:

Since 1998, Dr. Jingsong Zhang has mentored 32 undergraduate research students and has been proactive in integrating independent research opportunities into the chemistry curriculum. Since 200, Dr. Zhang has mentored 160 independent exploratory research projects and, supported by a $2m grant from the NSF, has been instrumental in establishing first-year laboratory research experiences in Freshman Learning Communities. Five of Dr. Zhang’s students have appeared with him as co-authors in peer-reviewed publications and his students have made 19 scholarly presentations of their work at conferences. Dr. Zhang’s undergraduate research students have also received 13 awards under his mentorship. Eight of Dr. Zhang’s students have been admitted to Ph.D. programs, and three students have subsequently earned Ph.D degrees in chemistry. Dr. Zhang is proactive in increasing diversity in scientific research; of the undergraduate students he has mentored, 18 are women, eight are Hispanic-American and two are African-American.