2014-2015 CHANCELLOR’S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

Faculty recipients:

Professor Eugene Nothnagel, Botany and Plant Sciences:

In 32 years at the University of California, Riverside, Dr. Eugene Nothnagel has mentored 115 undergraduate students in laboratory research. Many of Dr. Nothnagel’s students have made presentations or posters at the UCR Undergraduate Research Symposium and other venues. Dr. Nothnagel has coauthored 4 refereed publications with three different undergraduates. Dr. Nothnagel was also awarded the 2011-2012 Faculty Mentor of the Year Award from the University Honors Program. Students from Dr. Nothnagel’s lab are involved in fellowships and programs such as the Chancellor’s Research Fellowship, the STEM program, and other mini-grant programs. One of his nominating students writes “Dr. Nothnagel is unlike any other faculty member in that he takes time to get to know each of his undergraduates and works with them one-on-one to help them become students who are able to think critically and participate in research”, another writes “Dr. Nothnagel is passionate about his research and he shows care for his students”, and another writes “Dr. Nothnagel made me realize that with hard work, I am able to achieve my highest goals as a student and as a scientist”. Many of Dr. Nothnagel’s students have received admission to graduate school, medical school and other postgraduate health sciences schools.

Professor Joel Sachs, Biology:

Dr. Sachs has mentored 30 undergraduate research students since 2008 and currently has 6 apprentices in the lab. Dr. Sachs mentoring has resulted in 22 undergraduate co-authorships and 11 individual student awards for scholarly activity. Several of Dr. Sachs’ students have made presentations including honors theses and presentations at a national meeting. One of his nominating students writes “Joel’s exemplary personal and professional characteristics allow him to create a diverse, yet inclusive environment for student research. He is not only approachable, understanding and available for his undergraduate students, but also inspiring and comprehensive, thus advancing both curiosity and scientific intellect in his mentees” and another writes “Dr. Sachs has afforded other students with opportunities to advance in professional research careers”. Dr. Sachs is proactive in increasing diversity in scientific research; of the undergraduate students he has mentored, 10 are women, sixteen are Asian or Indian American, six are Latin American, one is Middle Eastern and one is African American. Several of Dr. Sachs students have received admission in graduate programs in a wide variety of fields at UCR School of Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine, New York College of Podiatric Medicine, UCSD, University of New England, Harvard University and University of Illinois.