2020-2021 Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement

Faculty Recipient
Professor Hollis Woodard, Entomology

Dr. Woodard is currently an Assistant Professor of Entomology. Since joining UCR in 2015, she has shown a profound commitment to Undergraduate Education, including through her efforts in student mentoring and engaging students in scientific research. Dr. Woodard’s research on the biology and conservation of insect pollinators (bumble bees) is an ideal way to engage UCR undergraduates in science and promote the next generation of creative scholars. She has already mentored more than 2 dozen undergraduates in the last 5 years in meaningful ways, with impressive products resulting from their activities. Her students routinely receive awards, including RISE fellowships and have been awarded Chancellor’s Research Fellowships and the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creativity. Students working with Dr. Woodard have co-authored journal articles and actively presented their work at conferences (19 presentations so far!). Notably, Dr. Woodard has found innovative ways to continue to involve students in research and provide access to research opportunities even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Woodard has been an active participant and leader in fostering diversity and inclusivity to improve student success. Her research group is predominantly women, first-generation or non-traditional students, and students from underrepresented backgrounds. Multiple letters of support for Dr. Woodard’s mentoring from her students comment on the kind and supportive research environment she constructs in her laboratory. Her students describe her as a tremendously supportive, compassionate, and scientifically rigorous mentor, noting that she, “Promotes a communal setting unlike any other; one of encouragement, cooperation, and excellence”; and that her approach “Challenged me to connect theoretical knowledge with practice, thereby fostering creativity and innovation.”