

Increasing Retention through RAP

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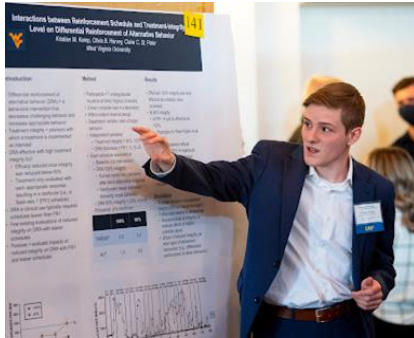


Undergraduate Research

“A high-impact educational practice”

(Russell, Hancock, and McCullough 2007; Kuh 2008)

UgR Mission: “Connect undergraduate students to faculty members, programs, and research opportunities on campus and off.”



Programing and Opportunities

- Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE)
- Research Apprenticeship Program (RAP)
- Symposia
- MURR
- Off Campus:
 - NSF REUs
 - NIST SURF

Demystifying RAP

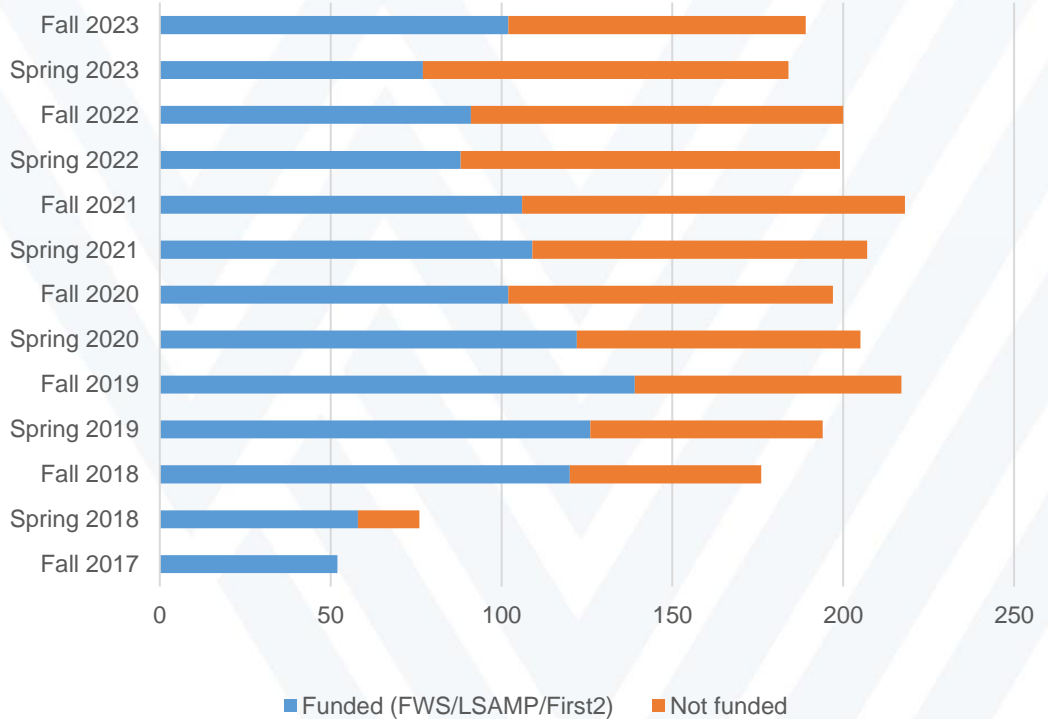
- RAP is open to all students in all disciplines
- No publication requirement
- Expectation to meet apprentices where they are
- WVU faculty are willing to serve as RAP mentors

Goals of RAP

1. Increase students' persistence in college.
2. Increase students' sense of belonging.
3. Increase students' success.
4. Provide opportunity for students to use their FWS to participate in high impact practices.

Ensuring use of Financial Aid

RAP Enrollment



RAP: 2 semesters – 2 components

Mentored Research
4 hrs/wk
(minimum)

**Introduction to
Research course**
50 min/wk

Federal Work Study, LSAMP and First2 Network fund eligible RAP students at an hourly rate.

How to participate in RAP?

- Advertise the research opportunity to undergrads
- Partner with different offices to reach historically excluded groups
- Meeting with potential participants
- Support in finding and connecting with a research mentor
- Enroll students in the RAP accompanying course

HONR 297/397

RAP: Introduction to Research

- Develop mentor relationship.
- Build the cohort.
- Improve students communication skills in their discipline.



RAP: Culminating Symposium

Presentations are judged

Recognition for best presenters



RAP Assessment

- Institutional data collected to identify RAP participants (2017-2022)
- RAP participants vs. institutional averages across similar demographic groups
- Fall to Fall retention rates - enrollment in the next academic year.

RAP FTF retention

	Total (%)	Retained (%)
All	868 (100)	817 (94)
1st year	372 (43)	341(92)
First-gen	209 (24)	189 (90)
Minority	155 (18)	145 (94)
Black	57 (7)	47 (82)
FWS	413 (48)	375 (91)
Rural (FORHP)	191 (22)	182 (95)

RAP v WVU

Increase (%)
26* ↑
12* ↑
22* ↑
19* ↑
10 ↑

Conclusion

Fall to Fall retention rates of RAP participants are 10-26% higher than WVU peers.

Gains are maintained among our most at-risk student populations.

Why is retention so high?

1. RAP reaches students at a higher risk of dropping from college.
2. Establishing connections with mentors and other students.
3. Increase student's sense of belonging.
4. Increase student's success.

Thank You!



John Campbell



RAP Team!

Thank you!

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