

October X, 200X

Governor FNAME LNAME
Office of the Governor
ADDRESS
ADDRESS

Dear GOVERNOR LNAME:

I am writing on behalf of the undergraduate research and scholarly activity community across the Commonwealth to request that February X, 200X be proclaimed Undergraduate Research Day.

Census data tells us that over the next decade the number of Kentuckians with a college degree will need to double if we are to meet the economic development needs of the state. As a consequence, Kentucky's higher education initiatives are focused on reform and results. To maintain accountability and to continue to achieve new academic standards, the Council on Postsecondary Education has developed five straight-forward questions for each of Kentucky's public universities to address. The Council asks in one of its questions, "*Are college graduates prepared for life and work in Kentucky?*" In an effort to respond to this question and to provide Kentucky students with the highest-quality education possible, Kentucky's public universities have been developing new teaching-learning strategies. One particularly successful strategy engages undergraduates in faculty-mentored research and scholarly work. This one-on-one learning opportunity helps retain students in college and better prepares them for the future, whether that future takes them to a graduate school, professional school, or simply gives them the needed preparation for a successful life in Kentucky!

For the past four years through the *Posters-at-the-Capitol* initiative, undergraduates from across the Commonwealth have been provided with a forum to display the results of their research, scholarly, and creative work in Frankfort to you and members of the legislature. As a new addition to the *Posters-at-the-Capitol* program this year and in support of the Commonwealth's long-term postsecondary education goal "*to raise the standard of living and quality of life in the Commonwealth above the national average*", we ask that you declare February X, 200X, as Undergraduate Research Day in Kentucky.

I appreciate your consideration on this matter. I would be happy to provide you with any additional information you might need.

Sincerely,

John Mateja, chair
Posters-at-the-Capitol Organizing Committee

JM/jc