



2025 SURF Grant Winners

College of Education and Human Development

Dean O'Connor, Ph.D.

12

Mackenzie Howell * and **Ashlyn Junot** | Education EC-6th |

Mentor: **Dr. Yan Yan**

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

HASBSEB Project: "Effects of Elementary Children's Screen Time on the Sociometric Status."

College of Business

Dean Joby John, Ph.D.

13

Ali Nikbin * | Accounting and Finances | and **Abrar Rahman *** | Electrical Engineering |

Mentors: **Dr. Gevorg Sargsyan** and **Dr. Don Warren**

Department of Accounting, Finances and Economics

HASBSEB Project: "AI-Driven Real Estate Permitting System: From Research to Market."

Department of Research in Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine.

\$ Department of Biology, Lamar University

2025 Beck Fellow

Mohamed Irhabi * | Biology |

Mentors: **Dr. Ioannis Petropoulos#** and **Dr. Ashwini Kucknoor%**

Department of Research in Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine

% Department of Biology, Lamar University

Location: Weill Cornell Medicine

STEM Project: "Retinal Microvascular Imaging via Optical Coherence Tomography Angiography for Non-Invasive Biomarker Development in Small Vessel Disease & Ischemic Stroke Prognostication."



S.U.R.F. Kick-off Day

June 2, 2025

Galloway bldg. — Landes 101

from 12:00 to 2:00pm



The 2025 S.U.R.F. program awards thirteen grants. The sixteen student winners are from all five academic colleges, the Reaud Honors College, and the Texas Academy. The grant proposals have been reviewed and scored by 39 faculty with expertise in closely related research areas. The winning research projects, 8 in STEM and 5 in the HASBSEB areas, form the top 76% of total proposals submitted, with scores ranging from 76% to 92%. Each S.U.R.F. winner receives \$2,700 stipend, \$1,400 in research support, \$500 in travel support, and can choose free housing during summer. It is expected that every S.U.R.F. student will present at the O.U.R. Fall Conference on November 14, and is encouraged to present outside Lamar in fall 2025 or spring 2026, with a \$500 travel grant support. The Advisory Board of O.U.R. and all the faculty reviewers heartily congratulate the S.U.R.F. winners and their mentors for this nice achievement, wishing to everyone the have a great summer research experience in developing a high quality research project.

Dr. Cristian Bahrim, Director of O.U.R.

Important Dates for SURF fellows

June 2 — SURF 2025 Kick-off Day for summer research.

June 25—26 — Mid-term report (11—4pm) in Archer 100D or your lab space.

September 5 — O.U.R. Kick-off Day and the SURF 2025 Symposium.

October 15 — U.R.G. proposals submission deadline for Y2025-26 grants.

November 14 — The O.U.R. 2025 Fall Conference.

December 2 — Awards Ceremony for the O.U.R. 2025 Fall Conference

SURF activities during summer 2025:

New Student Orientation — manning a booth in June (17, 18), July (14, 16, 18) or August (7, 9)
Summer Camps — COAS camp on June 17 and STEM camp (July 1-2 and 15-16)

2025 SURF Grant Winners

College of Fine Arts and Communication

Dean Golden Wright, Ph.D.

1

Harvest Prater | Speech and Hearing |

Mentor: **Dr. Raul Prezas**

Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences

HASBSEB Project: "Bridging Disciplines: Integrating Interprofessionalism into Modern Healthcare Education."

2

Evan Welford | Film Studies |

Mentor: **Mr. Andre Favors**

Department of Communication and Media

HASBSEB Project: "Censorship? An Analysis of the Discourses of Three Kendrick Lamar Performances."

3

Carolina Lizeth Hernandez | American Sign Language |

Mentor: **Dr. Douglas Williams**

Department of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education

HASBSEB Project: "¡OYE! Abre tus ojos: To Hispanic/Latino Sign Language Interpreter Hardships."

College of Engineering

Dean Tracy Benson, Ph.D.

4

Andy Qi @ | Chemical Engineering |

Mentor: **Dr. Robert Kelly Bradley**

Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering

STEM Project: "Systematic Study of Silicone Elastomers: Formulation, Testing, and Open Source Data Sharing."

5

Kendyl Thomas | Mechanical Engineering |

Mentor: **Dr. Ebrahim Seidi**

Department of Mechanical Engineering

STEM Project: "Evaluating Effects of Process Parameters on Polymer 3D Printing."

6

Ayna Arif | Psychology | and **Priya Rathore** * | Biology, Physics |

Mentor: **Dr. Thinesh Selvaratnam**

Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

STEM Project: "Bioremediation of Industrial Mine Wastewaters using Galdieria Sulphuraria."

2025 SURF Grant Winners

College of Arts and Sciences

Dean Rebecca Boone, Ph.D.

7

Layali Abusaleh | Chemical Engineering |

Mentor: **Dr. Sylvestre Twagirayezu**

Department of Chemistry

STEM Project: "Investigation of Thermally Energized Petroleum Mixture by Molecular Rotational Resonance (MRR) Spectroscopy."

8

Nirbhik (Nick) Neupane * | Computer Science |

Mentor: **Rakibul Islam**

Department of Computer Science

STEM Project: "Automating Traceability between App Reviews and Code Using Large Language Models."

9

Mahima Verma | Computer Science |

Mentor: **Dr. MD Masud Rana**

Department of Computer Science

STEM Project: "Self- Learning AI Tools for Automating Molecular Property Prediction."

10

Ryan Servantes * | Biology |

Mentor: **Dr. Jim Armacost**

Department of Biology

STEM Project: "Correlation Between Humans and Angel Wing Syndrome in Ducks."

11

James Addison III | Mechanical Engineering |

Mentor: **Dr. Binod Nainabasti**

Department of Physics

STEM Project: "Role of Group-Test on STEM Students' Success in Physics Class."

*Reaud Honors College Student \$Texas Academy Alumni @ Texas Academy



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