Undergraduate Research in the Community: How do I begin?

“Truth is not found inside the head of an individual person, it is born between people collectively searching for truth, in the process of their dialogical interaction.” –Mikhail Bakhtin

You will need:

___ An organization or community partner: _____________________________________________

___ Faculty mentor(s): ______________________________________________________________

___ An agreed upon research/activity “outcome” or goal(s): ______________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

___ Willingness to participate in weekly group discussions with fellow community research participants as required by faculty mentor (UGRC Reflection and Dialogue Seminar)

To participate: All students must complete the Student Proposal. This proposal requires a signature from the faculty mentor, a narrative description of the project, Waiver of Liability, and an overview of how to pursue 190 credit for your research project. This should be completed and turned in prior to beginning or in the early implementation of the project.

UGRC Seminar: A for-credit, weekly reflection and discussion seminar will be available for all UGRC students. Scheduled: Ask UGRC Coordinator for next quarter’s offerings.

Course Description: As a primary compliment to faculty-mentored research and creative activity in the community, this seminar provides an opportunity for peer consultation as well as guided and independent reflection through written and oral work during discussion. Short readings will also be provided on various topics that will deepen the student’s understandings of the issues affecting the environmental, social, economic and political well-being of our surrounding community. Outside speakers and community leaders may also be invited to participate with UGRC students on topical issues related to community engagement and development in the region. Outside activities will also be arranged. Class will rely upon the use of social networking sites such as iLearn and Facebook to connect students to other resources and to one another. 2 UNITS, S/NC.

Evaluation for 190/197/198I Credit: Final evaluations (letter grade or S/NC) are the responsibility of the faculty mentor. Participation in the UGRC Seminar is a separate grading process. Students seeking units of academic credit in their faculty mentor’s department must follow the necessary department rules for seeking Independent Study, Research or Internship credit. The Coordinator of UGRC can assist you in this process. These forms are always due to your department (with signatures) before the end of the second week of each quarter. It is strongly encouraged to complete these forms before or during the first week of the quarter in which you are seeking credit.

Student Responsibility: Students are the primary project facilitators. They are responsible for their own projects with a community or faculty partner and will be held accountable for their project contract. Faculty-mentors and the UGRC Coordinator serve as resources and guides for students but are not responsible for project.

Roles and Responsibilities of UGRC Coordinator for Student, Organization and Faculty: The UGRC Graduate Student Assistant and UGRC Coordinator will prepare and facilitate the UGRC Seminar, maintain records of student participation, maintain contact with each student’s organization to insure the mutual fulfillment of obligations, report to faculty mentors regarding students’ progress at appropriate intervals and as necessary, and serve as resource and support for students, organizations and faculty as necessary to insure a positive and transformative experience.