

## **RISE ABOVE: Research Increases Student Engagement MILLIGAN COLLEGE**

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Milligan College's QEP topic is *undergraduate research*. The goals of the QEP are *to equip students to conduct undergraduate research and increase the number of students participating in mentored research activities*. While undergraduate research is a broad topic, the College has identified a manageable set of student learning outcomes and key activities needed to achieve these outcomes.

In alignment with the College's mission, long-range strategic plans, and general education learning outcomes, RISE Above will build on the solid foundation of critical analysis and writing integral to Milligan's core curriculum and provide students and faculty with the resources necessary to take undergraduate research to new levels.

RISE Above is designed to address four levels of learning specified through five learning outcomes related to undergraduate research. It is expected that all traditional undergraduates will achieve student learning outcome (SLO) 1 and that the vast majority will achieve up to SLO 3.1.

### **LEVEL ONE—VALUE**

**SLO 1:** Students will value participating in research activities.

### **LEVEL TWO—EXAMINE**

**SLO 2:** Students will possess the skills to find, evaluate, and document sources relevant to a research question.

### **LEVEL THREE—CREATE**

**SLO 3.1:** Students will demonstrate the ability to craft a research proposal.

**SLO 3.2:** Students will demonstrate the ability to complete a mentored research project.

### **LEVEL FOUR—SHARE**

**SLO 4:** Students will demonstrate the ability to publicly present their scholarly research in a manner consistent with practices in their discipline.

In support of these outcomes, the implementation of RISE Above can be divided into three broad categories: *development and enhancement of curricula*, *development and expansion of infrastructure*, and *the development and enhancement of faculty and student resources*. Modifications to existing courses and the addition of *new* discipline-specific courses will directly impact student learning. A newly-established Office of Undergraduate Research will provide the umbrella under which all activities related to undergraduate research will be coordinated, promoted, and assessed. Finally, significant financial resources are committed not only to the creation and expansion of activities and opportunities that will further prepare students to participate in substantive research projects but also to the faculty who will mentor their students through these endeavors.