Equitably Meeting the Moment for Student Research

**GOAL**

With in-person summer research experiences at Big Ten Academic Alliance institutions cancelled due to COVID, ensure an alternative summer research experience that accommodates students' previously unanticipated needs.

**CHALLENGE**

Simply hosting the mentored research experience online did not address the emerging challenges students faced during the pandemic, including safe housing, meal supports, suitable technology, cohort building, etc.

**SOLUTION**

Create a virtual experience that builds in additional supports to offset experiential losses, while also ensuring all students could participate fully.

- Recruited ACM faculty to serve as research mentors in situations where Big Ten Academic Alliance faculty were not available.
- Supplemented students' $4,000 stipend (an equitable measure itself in that summer research means foregoing income from a summer job) with additional $750 meal supplement.
- Launched a virtual writing workshop series to replace the writing support students would have received during in-person research experience. The virtual option also offered additional opportunities for students to interact with each other.
- Created emergency fund to which students could apply in confidence to receive additional funds for issues like safe housing, high-speed internet at home, laptop rentals, etc.
- Offered Big Ten Academic Alliance workshops to provide students with information about graduate school selection and application tips.
- Held bi-weekly check-in appointments for students who wanted space to discuss research and life challenges.

**OUTCOMES**

- **A High-Quality and Equitable Experience** - Pivoted to high-quality virtual experience that equitably supported pandemic-related student needs.
- **Anxiety Relief for Students** - Students focused on summer research projects and met pandemic-related expenses with additional funding.
- **Gratitude** – Both students and campus coordinators grateful to have pandemic-specific support available for student researchers.