

CURC 2024 Award Winners

Best In Show

Research Poster

Kayla Fairweather

College of Veterinary Medicine and
Biomedical Sciences

*"Macrophage Stimulation with TLR Agonists
Induces a Pro-Inflammatory Tumoricidal
Response"*

Mentors: Nicole Ehrhart

Emily Perkins

College of Veterinary Medicine and
Biomedical Sciences

*"Establishing molecular mechanisms of glial-
mediated response in a chronic pain in vitro
model"*

Mentor: Katriana Popichak

Visual Arts

Ana Mriglot

College of Natural Sciences

"Aspen's Gaze"

Creative Writing

Izabelle Hood

College of Liberal Arts

"Burnt Songs"

Mentor: Dan Beachy-Quick and Matthew
Cooperman

Community Engaged Learning Poster

Karen Rodriguez and Alejandro Aparicio Miranda

College of Liberal Arts

*"Underserved Audience Extension
Internship/Fellowship in Douglas County"*

Mentor: Eric Ishiwata

Oral Presentation

Sandrín Molina and Ella Smith

College of Liberal Arts

"Being Trans in Public: a CSU Case Study"

Mentors: Nikoli Attai and Caridad Souza

Film

Giovanna Paterno

Warner College of Natural Resources

"DIY Music Communities of Fort Collins"

Mentor: Frank Boring

Performing Arts

Andrew Rutten

College of Liberal Arts

*"Echoes of Mastery: Exploring Mangani's Bass
Concerto"*



Excellence in Data Science Research

*Sponsored by Data Science
Research Institute Institute*

Emma Hoopes

College of Agricultural Sciences
*"Hyperspectral Imaging and Machine
Learning for Plant Health Assessment"*
Mentor: Phuong Dao

Sebastian Lawton

Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering
*"Human Cells in Data: Predictors for Nuclear
Shape"*
Mentor: Ashok Prasad

Excellence in Diversity, Inclusion & Social Justice

Sponsored by CSU Graduate School

Jaylin Nichols

College of Health and Human Sciences
*"Different Minds: Supporting Neurodivergent
Students in Higher Education"*
Mentor: Aimee Walker

Ian Edwards-Clancy and Link Warren

Warner College of Natural Resources
*"Growing Food Security at Colorado State
University"*
Mentor: Sylvia Lee

Excellence in Liberal Arts Research

*Sponsored by the College of
Liberal Arts*

Ali Niaz

College of Liberal Arts
*"The Rocket Scientist vs. The Journalist: A
Battle Within Culture"*
Mentor: Jenny Fischer

Lauren Banas

College of Liberal Arts
"Proposal: S.A.V.E.D Space Curriculum"

Excellence in Energy and Climate Solutions

Sponsored by The Energy Institute

Madzie Boyles

Warner College of Natural Resources
*"Measuring Climate Vulnerability in Houston,
Texas"*
Mentor: Elizabeth Tulanowski

Kay Willock

Warner College of Natural Resources
*"ATS Biofuel Viability in the Chesapeake Bay
Watershed"*
Mentors: Jason Quinn and David Quiroz

Highest Honors

Hannah Butkus

College of Natural Sciences

"Expression and Hypoxia Sensitivity of ZO1 in Deer Mice Placenta"

Mentor: Kathryn Wilsterman

Kristin Weninger

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"Urinary Tract Escherichia coli Infection as an Etiological Factor in Neurodegenerative Pathologies"

Mentor: Julie Moreno

Zoe Atkinson

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"Gene-targeted mice expressing cervid prion protein efficiently peripheralize CWD prions to extraneural tissues"

Mentor: Glenn C. Telling

Paris Kiehl

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"Inactivating probiotic-based rotavirus vaccine to study effect of lactic acid on immunoprotection"

Mentor: Gregg Dean

Johanna Merkel

College of Agricultural Sciences

"Efficacy of Fusarium spp. isolates in the management of wheat stem sawfly"

Mentor: Punya Nachappa

Clarissa Hernandez Jeppesen

College of Health and Human Sciences

"Promoting Nutrition"

Mentor: Lauren Shomaker

Ashlynn Madril

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"A Shellfish Journey: Characterizing an Inhibitory Receptor in Crustacean Molting"

Mentor: Donald Mykles

Eilee Murray and Brittani Meis

College of Agricultural Sciences

"Changes in Soil health in Relation to Management in Dryland Agroecosystems"

Mentor: Meagan Schipanski

David Crosby

College of Natural Sciences

"Controlling Electron Flux, Energy Production, and Energy Conservation in vivo Through Protein-Protein Tethering"

Mentor: Sere Williams

College Honors

Emily Wilson

College of Agricultural Sciences

"Associations between human and novel object approach test outcomes and health status in preweaned Holstein heifer calves"

Mentor: Catie Cramer

Lauren Benfield

College of Agricultural Sciences

"Longitudinal Analysis of Climate Adaptation Strategies for U.S. Dairy Farms"

Mentor: Jasmine Dillon

Phuong Nguyen and Joshua Chavez

College of Business

"Uncertain Language in Earnings Conference Calls and Analyst Forecast Dispersion – A Preliminary Study"

Mentors: Xinran Wang and Wenrui Zhang

Ellie Shyu

College of Health and Human Sciences

"Biological Age and Sex as Determinants of Skeletal Muscle Extracellular Vesicle Secretion"

Mentor: Daniel Lark

Bailey Kelly, Maya Lee and Autumn Pivonka

College of Health and Human Sciences

"Price and warning labeling impacts on red meat consumption among adult consumers in the U.S."

Mentor: Colleen Burke

Bridget Brown

College of Health and Human Sciences

"Mechanical Testing of Kombucha Bacterial Cellulose to Assess Potential Applications in the Apparel Industry"

Mentor: Yan Li

Alex Mccraw

College of Liberal Arts

"For Dear Life"

Mentor: Joanna Deoxy



Sophie Stern, Matthew Silalahi, Annie Hessler and John Howe

College of Liberal Arts

"We The Creators"

Mentor: Jaime Jacobsen

Alexandra Lanucha, Ben Ballinger and Sol Rivera

College of Natural Sciences

"Coral Health and Color"

Mentor: Deedee Wright

Jason McDonald

College of Natural Sciences

"ChIP-seq for Hyperthermophilic Archaea: Understanding the Metabolic Guardian of Thermococcus kodakarensis"

Mentors: Brett Burkhart and Tom Santangelo

Alessandra Donev

College of Natural Sciences

"Minimum Sequence Requirements of Prion Like Domains in Yeast for Stress Granule Localization"

Mentor: Eric Ross

Karissa Coleman

College of Natural Sciences

"SPN-4 promotes 3UTR-dependent lin-41 mRNA clearance during the oocyte-to-embryo transition in Caenorhabditis elegans"

Mentor: Erin Osborne Nishimura

Anna Galaeva

College of Natural Sciences

"Development, Synthesis, and Characterization of [VO(3tBu-HSHED)dtb] as a potential anticancer agent: Preparation for Toxicity testing"

Mentors: Debbie C. Crans and Eric Ross

Rean Savi

College of Natural Sciences

"The Role of USP48 in Deubiquitylating H2A C-Terminal Ubiquitilation Catalyzed by BRCA1/BARD1"

Mentor: TingTing Yao



Jana Norris Oliver

College of Natural Sciences

“Verbal Overshadowing Effect: Application Beyond Crime Scenes and Line-ups”

Mentor: Haley McCoy

Claire Lundstrom

College of Natural Sciences

“Genetically Encoded Biosensors to Detect Ubiquitination in Live Cells”

Mentors: Tingting Yao and Robert Cohen

Sydney Johnson

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

“Gut microbial products, m-tyrosine and 3-(3-hydroxyphenyl)-3-hydroxypropionic acid, promote inflammation in autism-like cell model”

Mentor: Katriana Popichak

Evan Hurtado

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

“Development of a Sheep Brain Atlas”

Mentor: Richard McCosh

Genova Mumford

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

“An In-Vivo Exploration of the Impact of the IKK Kinase complex on prion-induced inflammation”

Mentor: Julie Moreno

Michelle Galvan

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

“Investigating SARS-CoV-2 Evolution and Transmission in Lions, Tigers, and Hyenas at the Denver Zoo”

Mentor: Laura Bashor

Lauren Bennett

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

“Evaluating the presence of Chronic Wasting Disease in free-range White-tailed deer in Arkansas”

Mentor: Nathaniel Denkers



Miles Hopkins and Jake Lonergan

College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

"White Matter Content and its Correlation to Activity Levels Throughout Healthy Aging"

Mentor: Agnieszka (Aga) Burzynska

Chloë Brekhus

Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering

"Development of an Automated Bone Transport Device"

Mentor: Ben Gadomski

Kate McGill

Warner College of Natural Resources

"A Comparison of Observed and Modeled Soil Moisture"

Mentor: Avery Driscoll

Elliot Batta

Warner College of Natural Resources

"Examining the Creation and Impact of Queer Counterspaces in Undergraduate Biology Fields"

Mentor: Sarah Eddy

Shelby Mead

Warner College of Natural Resources

"Microclimates under solar panels in agrivoltaic systems drives soil microbe community composition"

Mentor: J. Alexander Siggers

Amelia Anderson

Warner College of Natural Resources

"Wild horses in the west: Generating maps and learning modules for four K-12 curriculum levels"

Mentors: Sarah King and Stacy Lynn

Riley Dils

Warner College of Natural Resources

"On the Pulse: Investigating Fish Temperature Tolerance"

Mentor: Tawni Riepe

