Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) student Chase Branstetter, right, works with graduate student Ryne Overfield in Dr. Jeff White’s chemistry lab on the Oklahoma State University campus.

Research experience can change a student's course in life
At first glance it seems like summer at Oklahoma State University is pretty quiet, but for several groups of undergraduate students from across the country spending their summer at OSU, that couldn’t be further from the truth. For years, OSU professors have participated in an NSF-funded program to introduce undergraduate students to research. The Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program has as one of its goals getting students to think about research disciplines as careers. "Research has changed my whole outlook on life and what my future is," said REU participant Zach Dunham, a computer science major from Jay, Oklahoma, who is attending Northeastern State University. This summer OSU campuses in Stillwater and Tulsa have REU programs in chemistry, natural resources management, materials science and engineering, computer science, and biosystems and ag engineering. I want to thank our faculty members who are leading these REU research sites at OSU. It's hard work, but they know they're investing in the future of their disciplines.

Go Pokes!

Kenneth W. Sewell, Ph.D., Vice President for Research

Michelle Stevenson named assistant VP for Research Compliance

Dr. Michelle (Mickey) Stevenson, an experienced researcher and research compliance administrator, is OSU’s new assistant vice president for Research Compliance. Stevenson will direct the OSU Office of Research Compliance within the Division of the Vice President for Research. In her role, she will advise the VPR on all policy and administrative matters associated with maintaining responsible, ethical, and legally compliant research practices.

Stevenson was a research specialist for the Office of Research and Technology Transfer at the University of Texas System Administration before being named director of Ethical Conduct of Research, Intellectual Property, and Sponsored Programs at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in 2010. Since 2012 she has served as the assistant vice president for research integrity at UTSA. Read More

A 50-year NASA/College of Education, Health and Aviation partnership continues

In a grant announcement that is rewardingly familiar to Oklahoma
State University's College of Education, Health and Aviation, the college revealed May 30 that it had been awarded $25 million by NASA to fund education programs at the space agency. As if the grant wasn't exciting enough, Dr. Steven Marks (profile below), director of OSU’s NASA Education Projects and principal investigator for the NSPACE grant, said the project marks 50 years of continuous collaboration with NASA education programs beginning in 1968.

The College of Education, Health and Aviation, along with several partner institutions, will use the NASA funding to support STEM activities at the Johnson Space Center for K-12 students, educators, and community college and undergraduate students. Read More

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**Research profile: Dr. Steven Marks**

Leaving a lasting legacy with NASA education

Dr. Steven Marks has spent 42 years at Oklahoma State University where he has supported and then directed an amazing program in the College of Education. Since 1968, the college (now the College of Education, Health and Aviation) has had continuous funding from NASA education programs, and Marks has been there nearly his entire career participating in that partnership’s growth. Marks grew up in Emporia, Kansas, where his father was a faculty member at Emporia State University (ESU). He spent his entire early educational years at the university beginning in elementary school.

“I attended the ESU Elementary and Secondary Laboratory Schools. I attended 3rd grade through a master’s degree on the same campus,” he said.

While a junior high science teacher in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, Marks attended an Aerospace Education Workshop for teachers where he met Dr. Ken Wiggins from OSU. Wiggins offered him a Doctor in Education graduate assistantship to help with the NASA Aerospace Education Services program. It was while working to earn his EdD that Marks learned firsthand about NASA education projects by working for Wiggins and crisscrossing the country. Marks will conclude his career with OSU later this year with his retirement. Read More

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**OSU Research Matters**

Read why . . .

The 2017 issue of OSU Research Matters magazine highlights the work of OSU physicist Dr. Joseph Haley and his students who study particle physics at some of the world's largest particle accelerators located in Europe. Some of Haley's post-doctoral students conduct research at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland. OSU scientists, engineers and scholars can be found conducting research all over the world. Read this and other stories about amazing research and researchers at OSU. #OSUResearchMatters

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**Research news:**

Does a mother's weight affect decisions about breast feeding?

OSU clinical psychologist Dr. Misty Hawkins and collaborators have published research suggesting a mother's weight may affect how long she breast feeds her baby.
Wagner will provide vision and leadership for water-related research, Extension and educational programs. This includes pursuing innovative work and grant opportunities for faculty from 11 academic departments across the university.

The position is jointly supported by the Division of the Vice President for Research and DASNR.

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Niblack Research Scholar interviews

Watch video interviews with 2016-17 undergraduate Niblack Research Scholars. In Focus will regularly feature Niblack scholars, including Woong Hee Cho (left) and Karley Washburn.

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Faculty Conversations are a collection of videos of OSU faculty talking about their research. The videos represent a wide cross section of disciplines and novel research projects. Visit the OSU Research website to see the Faculty Conversations collection, including a video featuring Dr. Tyler Ley, associate professor of structural engineering, who talks about his research to improve construction materials like concrete.

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A survey of nearly 2,000 subjects showed that mothers who have been chronically overweight breast feed an average of two months less than mothers who have never been overweight. Hawkins heads the Research on Emotions and Cognition in Health (REACH) Lab at OSU. The lab studies how emotions and cognitive function contribute to the development of poor health and chronic disease as well as how these conditions impact emotions, cognition, and behaviors. Read More

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CEAT undergrad lab receives industry boost

Valero Energy has donated $1.25 million to the College of Engineering, Architecture, and Technology to be used in the new ENDEAVOR undergraduate laboratory. The Valero Process and Transport Laboratory, within ENDEAVOR, will provide students with hands-on learning experiences by affording them access to state-of-the-art equipment and processes similar to what is used at modern refineries. Valero, an independent petroleum refiner and ethanol producer, employs approximately 10,000 people. It markets products in 44 states, six Canadian provinces, the United Kingdom and Ireland. Read More

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FEATURED EVENT

July 27-28
Data Carpentry Workshop
Room 206, OSU Library

The workshop is for any researcher who has data they want to analyze. No prior computational experience is required. This hands-on workshop teaches basic
concepts, skills and tools for working more effectively with data.

Topics include data organization in spreadsheets and OpenRefine, an introduction to Python, and data analysis and visualization in Python and SQL. Participants should bring laptops. Learn More ➔