



# URCAD

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND  
CREATIVE ACHIEVEMENT DAY

May 8, 2026  
Schedule

## Oral Presentations Morning Session – 1 Location: Sprague/Carleton – Student Center

Start	End	Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
9:20	9:40	Teenage Rebellion	Matthew Adkins	Dr. Jacob Werblow	History-Secondary Education
9:40	10:00	The Role of Place Based Learning in Social Studies	Peter Lugo	Dr. Jacob Werblow	History
10:00	10:20	"The Extra Credit Dilemma"	Jaelyn Taylor and Gabriella Breer	Dr. Jacob Werblow	English Secondary Education
10:20	10:40	Integrating Machine Learning and Python-Based Automation to Quantify Crayfish Behavioral Patterns in a Plus Maze	Tomasz Lukaszczyk	Dr. Syed Y. Abbas	Health Science Biology
10:40	11:00	Racebending F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby: Adaptation, Fanfiction, and the Subjugation of East Asian Women in mingbee's "黛西,我要你爱上我 [All I want is your love]"	Georgine Revilloza	Dr. Amanda Greenwell	English
11:00	11:20	Celebration of Collaboration: Barbenheimer Exhibition	Angelo Reyes	Dr. Jeanne Criscola	Graphic/Information Design
11:20	11:40	New Britain Industrial Museum: Capital Campaign and Second Chance Employer Toolkit: Website	Tyler Nguyen	Dr. Jeanne Criscola	Graphic/Information Design



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## Oral Presentations Morning Session – 2 Location: NC 231

Start	End	Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
9:20	9:40	Looking at the Great Depression through a Multicultural Lens	Rafael Rodrigues	Dr. Jacob Werblow	History Secondary Ed
9:40	10:00	Mss. Morales Classroom Website	Daniela Morales	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Education
10:00	10:20	Multicultural Unit Plan	Margaret Taylor	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Education
10:20	10:40	The 4QM Model: Advantages and Disadvantages	Kendall Marshall	Dr. Jacob Werblow	History Secondary Education
10:40	11:00	Steps Toward Connection	Jonathan McCray	Dr. Jacob Werblow	History
11:00	11:20	Hot Cities, Cold Reality: Climate Inequality in Urban America	Sherrod Cuttino and Aya Modni	Dr. Jacob Werblow	History
11:20	11:40	The Moderating Effect of Sense of Community in The Relationship between Perceived Discrimination and Psychological Well-Being Among Muslim-Americans	Satil Moni	Dr. James Conway	Psychology - Community Track
11:40	12:00	The Value of Educational Field Experience	Billy Smith	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Secondary History Education



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Oral Presentations

Morning Session – 3

Location: Tower Room 134– Student Center

Start	End	Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
9:20	9:40	Power of student voice in a writing classroom	Elizer Tirado	Dr. Jacob Werblow	English
9:40	10:00	Second Chance, By Design: Translating Policy into Practice?	Tyler Nguyen	Dr. Jeanne Criscola and Dr. Peggy Bloomer	Graphic Design
10:00	10:20	Evaluating the Effectiveness of Training and Development Programs for Student Workers at Central Connecticut State University	Skylar Rutka	Dr. Heidi Hughes	Management- Human Resources
10:20	10:40	Comparing CT School Systems	Matias Monteiro, Noah Cable, Ryan Newberry, and Remy Rodriguez	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Secondary-Ed History
10:40	11:00	Remote Sensing Bodies of Water from Satellite Image Data	Chris Albert	Dr. Rafiul Hassan	Computer Science
11:00	11:20	A Genetic Analysis of Plethodon glutinosus Populations East versus West of the Hudson River	Tianna Togninalli	Dr. Michelle Kraczkowski and Dennis Quinn	Ecology and Environmental Science
11:20	11:40	Turning a History of Exclusion into Inclusion through Language and Tutor Training in Writing Centers	Rachel Giroux	Dr. Amanda Fields	English Secondary Education
11:40	12:00	Assessing Students-Parents' Needs and Awareness of Services in Higher Education	Erica Dewey	Dr. Helena Swanson	Community Psychology



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Oral Presentations

Morning Session – 4

Location: Bellin A/B– Student Center

Time: 10 am – 12 pm

Title	Student(s)	Major
XR Meditation and Skill Acquisition	Kai Elle Romero	Psychological Science
Set Designer for our fall play "Webster's Bitch"	Jenna Bulmer	Theatre
Quite Frankly, It's Personal: Trump and the Rise of Personality Politics	Ryan Thompson	Political Science
Internship at the Hill-Stead Museum	Sasha Janelie Cubero	Art
Emotional Intelligence and Posttraumatic Growth: Considering Emotion Regulation and Trauma Severity	Ashley Carter	Psychological Science & Mathematics
Racial Disparities Across: Arrest, Prosecution, Sentencing, and Reentry	Anastasia Churyk	Criminology
2026 Mental Health, Social Support, and Satisfaction with Life	Elizabeth Haimowitz	Psychological Science
Multicultural Unit Plan Applied to Physical and Human Geography	Tom Danby	Social Studies Education
Stress in Art	Neelia Bergeron	Psychological Science



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## Oral Presentations Afternoon Session – 1 Location: NC 231

Start	End	Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
12:00	12:20	Proton Permeability of Lipid Membranes Determined by Pyranine Fluorescence Kinetics	Michelle Ireland	Dr. Sarah Maurer	Biochemistry
12:20	12:40	Resolution of racemic aldehydes and ketones with a chiral amine via diastereomeric imine formation	Keira Guarco	Dr. Neil Glagovich	Chemistry
12:40	1:00	Structural Studies of T-cell Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase or Structural Basis for the Inhibition of T-cell Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase	Cassandra Marshall	Dr. Nilda Alicea-Velazquez	Chemistry
1:00	1:20	Structural Studies of SHP-1 C-SH2 Domain Recognition of a Phosphorylated Binding Partner	Jenna Villanueva	Dr. Nilda Alicea-Velazquez	Biochemistry
1:20	1:40	Functionalization of Cyclic Peptoids for Use as Inhibitors of Human $\beta$ -tryptase	Wyatt Malone	Dr. Dilani C. Dehigaspitiya	Chemistry
1:40	2:00	Amino Acids as Small Molecule Catalysts for adenosine-5'-monophosphate Polymerization	Amoy King	Dr. Sarah Maurer	Biochemistry
2:00	2:20	Mineral Effects on Nonenzymatic Adenosine Monophosphate Polymerization Under Variable Hydration Conditions	Allison Gonzalez Fernandez	Dr. Sarah Maurer	Chemistry
2:20	2:40	From Radio Waves to Stellar Properties: Using Circumstellar Carbon Monoxide to Understand Nearby Pre-Main Sequence Stars	Caroline Kilian	Dr. Kristine Larsen	Physics
2:40	3:00	Anatomical Analysis of Hamamelis virginiana Leaf Venation in Relation to Spatial Distribution of Hormaphis hamamelidis Galls	Jessica Rustico	Dr. Alicia Bray	Biology



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## Oral Presentations Afternoon Session – 2 Location: AIH 207

Start	End	Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
12:00	12:20	Lower Allston landing underground Train Station	Orion Inkel, Luis Barajas, Jeremy Zahner, Michael Alves, Inderpreet Behal.	Dr. Cindy DeSellier and Talat Salama	Construction Management
12:20	12:40	Team BEEZ KNEEZ: Robotic Assistant for the Disabled	Jahmal Bynum, Dang Ly, Alissa Pace, and Justin Tran	Dr. Eric Flynn	MET <sup>2</sup>
12:40	1:00	Team Maker Motion: 3D Scanning & Cobot Mobile Pedestal	Hanif Barrett, Anders Maxilus, Latosha Murray, and Jeannie Tran,	Dr. Eric Flynn and Mr. Steve Longpre	MET <sup>2</sup>
1:00	1:20	Team MEK Additive Manufacturing: Part Optimization using Simulations and Additive Manufacturing	Emma Dargenio, Kenyce Johnson, and Matthew Lynch	Dr. Eric Flynn and Mr. Sean Belleau	MET <sup>2</sup>
1:20	1:40	Team Motion Forms: Servo Motor Power Transmission for Robotic Arm	Diego Angeles, Jacob McCann, and Thomas Roberts	Dr. Haoyu Wang	MET <sup>2</sup>
1:40	2:00	Team UpTime: Using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning for Predictive Maintenance	Michael Miranda, Victor Paez, Ibraheem Rana, and Alexander Valdivia	Dr. Eric Flynn	MET <sup>2</sup>



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## Oral Presentations Afternoon Session – 3 Location: AIH 217

Start	End	Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
12:00	12:20	Cooling System Incorporation of Compressed Dry-Air	Jayson Arichavala, Tom Bukovsky, Benjamin Fields, and Daniel Glucinski	Dr. Luz Amaya	Mechanical Engineering
12:20	12:40	Lake Debris Removal Device	Majd Al Abas, Anthony Arizaga, Akib Lodhi, Joshua Perez	Dr. Luz Amaya	Mechanical Engineering Technology
12:40	1:00	Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV)	Karen Ninson, Konnor Busiere, Lionel Wanyama, Quan Ly	Dr. Luz Amaya and Dr. David Broderick	Electrical & Mechanical Engineering
1:00	1:20	3D Fabricated (902-928 MHz) Microstrip Antenna ISM band Application	Alvato Prendi, Arianna Clarke, and Le Nguyen Czaja	Dr. David Broderick	Electrical Engineering
1:20	1:40	Protection application of Lightweight Meta Structures	Hasan Aburumi	Dr. Mohammad Reza Vaziri Sereshk	Mechanical Engineering
1:40	2:00	Instrumentation of Thermocouples for Heat Sink Data Collection	Konrad Piech, Benjamin Goode, and Kurt Freda	Dr. David Broderick	Electrical Engineering



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## Graduate Poster Presentations

Location: Alumni Hall – Student Center  
2-4 PM

Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
Discourse Encoding in Subordinate Clauses: Insights from Corpus Analysis	Mike Aune	Dr. Helen Koulidobrova	Applied Linguistics master's program
Fraud Detection Using Graph Neural Networks	Mark Rodriguez	Dr. Md Rafiul Hassan	Artificial Intelligence
Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction of a Division I Collegiate Female Basketball Athlete	Avery Gabrenas	Dr. Kathy Pirog	Athletic Training
Anterior Ankle Dislocation in A NCAA Division I Female Diver	Jillian Plieth	Dr. Dr. Pirog	Athletic Training
Anterior Cruciate Ligament Repair with Autologous Quadriceps Tendon, Lateral Extra-Articular Tenodesis, And Arthroscopic Revision in a Division I Football Player	Anthony Cusimano	Dr. Kathy Pirog	Athletic Training
Bilateral Fasciotomy for Chronic Exertional Compartment Syndrome in A Male Collegiate Track Athlete	Jenna Pine	Dr. Kathy Pirog	Athletic Training
Function Of Natural Wax Coating on Predation of Spotted Lanternfly (Lycorma Delicatula) Egg Masses by Native Arthropod Predators	Oliver Kelsey	Dr. Alicia Bray	Biology (Wildlife and Conservation Biology)
Synaptic Localization of The D2-Like Dopamine Receptor DOP-2 In ASH Sensory Neurons of Caenorhabditis Elegans.	Jack Moquete	Dr. Chase	Biomolecular Science
Identification And Validation of Novel Polymorphisms in The in H. Vulgaris as A Target of Hyadar Mediated RNA-Editing	Ethan Khentigan, Ava Monteiro, and Nudrat Rana	Dr. Barry Hoopengardner	Biomolecular Science
Subacute Polystyrene Particle Exposure Impairs Regeneration in Planaria	Lin Vitarbo and Muaz Abdulla	Dr. Betsy Dobbs-McAuliffe	Biomolecular science
LLM Forensic Benchmarking: Logit Gaps and Floating-Point Instability	Sadie Simek, Jacob Mancini, Robert Ruiz, and Sadie Simek	Dr. Ramyapandian Vijayakanthan	Cybersecurity and MSC Ai
Exploring Health and Well-Being of International Faculty at Central	Yein Cho	Dr. Holly Brott	Health Psychology, Psychological Science
Operational And Clinical Predictors of Psychiatric Readmissions: Insights from National CMS Data	Danielle M. Morris	C. Christopher Lee	MBA
When Do ESG Initiatives Influence Hospital Performance? The Moderating Role of Ownership Type	Tiffany A. Palmer, Shoaib R. Raza, and Rajashri S. Parisharak	Dr. C. Christopher Lee	MBA



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Graduate Poster Presentations

Location: Alumni Hall – Student Center

2-4 PM

Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
Does Sourcing Strategy Matter for Hospital Performance	Sedina Begic, Sarah Mongillo, and Josy Santiago	Dr. C. Christopher Lee	MBA
Physical And Digital Gamification of Mathematics Review and Its Effect on Test Results	Frank Bua	Dr. Patrick Foster	MS STEM Education
Examining The Mediating Role of Attention Span Between Tiktok Use and Impulsivity	Destiny Hurst	Dr. James Conway	Psychology
The Moderating Effect of Subjective Socioeconomic Status on The Relationship Between Agreeableness and Volunteerism	Emily Boucher	Dr. James Conway	Psychology
Don't Drop Noncompliers When You Can Keep Them and Use An IV	Samantha James-Brown	Dr. John Protzko	Psychology
A Software-Defined Supervisory Architecture For PLC-Free Robotic 3D Scanning in Precision Metrology of Mechanical Components	Rumman Shahzad	Dr. Haoyu Wang	Software Engineering
Phishwise - Phishing Detection Training Web Application	Gerti Gjini and Mark Rodriguez	Dr. Yusuf Albayram	Software Engineering
English Learners	Amy Sarmiento Bermeo	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Spanish Ed
The Impact of Gamification On 7th Grade Science Students	Michaela Savinelli	Dr. Patrick Foster	STEM Education
The Effects of Trauma on Learning	Marlon Blackwood	Dr. Patrick Foster	Stem Education
Teacher Perspectives on AI And Student Engagement in Middle School Education	Gabriella Garcia	Dr. Patrick Foster	STEM Education
Teaching Mathematics Through a Technology Education Approach: Effects on Student Engagement And Performance	Luke Vermilyea	Dr. Patrick Foster	STEM Education
Curriculum Shifts and Student Outcomes: A Study of Fourth Grade Mathematics Achievement, Anxiety and Attitudes	Kaitlyn Kelemen	Dr. Patrick Foster	STEM in Education



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## Undergraduate Poster Presentations Location: Alumni Hall – Student Center 2-4 PM

Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
Explaining Variation in Human Stature: Climate Versus Subsistence Strategy	Shana Kilkenny	Dr. Thomas Rein	Anthropology
Multivalent Glyco-Peptoid Scaffolds as High-Avidity Inhibitors of Carbohydrate–Lectin Interactions	Ryan Rigsby	Dr. Dilani Chathurika Dehigaspitiya	Biochemistry
Toxicological Impact of Polystyrene Microplastics on <i>Dugesia japonica</i>	Amoy King	Dr. Betsy Dobbs-McAullife	Biochemistry
Cloning and Validation of SHP-2 SH2 Domains	Julissa Hidalgo and Chassidy Hicks	Dr. Nilda Alicea-Velazquez	Biochemistry
Determination of simple sugars from fruits of <i>Jaltomata</i> using Hydrophilic Interaction Liquid Chromatography (HILIC) - Ultra High-Performance Liquid Chromatography - Corona Charged Aerosol Detection (uHPLC-CAD)	Anthony Ntiamoah	Dr. Sourav Chakraborty	Biochemistry
From Roads to Rivers: The Delay of Chloride Pollution	Aidan Carvajal	Dr. Michelle Kraczkowski	Biology
Expression of Mll2 and Ezh2 in IVF and in-vivo mouse embryos	Alissa Palmer	Dr. Sadie Marjani	Biology
Exploration of Nectar Variance in Flowers of <i>Jaltomata auriculata</i>	Michelle Helming	Dr. Mione	Biology
The Genetic Comparison Between Lineages of Albinism Observed in <i>Boa imperator</i>	Nate Miller	Dr. Sadie Marjani	Biology
Assessing Genetic Differentiation Between Two Morphologically Identical <i>Plethodon</i> Populations	Frankie Ince	Dr. Michelle Kraczkowski	Biology
The Microbiome of <i>Cassiopea xamachana</i> , the Upside Down Jellyfish	Lisa Nigro, Jose Navarro, Tyra Torres, and Elizabeth Hamilton	Dr. Lisa Nigro	Biology
Expression of YAP1 in Cloned Bovine Embryos	Sadie Marjani, Soiksha Adhikari, Kristina Bozek, Nancy Inthasit, Alyssa Pappa, Iliya Sheikh and Aniela Zawisza	Dr. Sadie Marjani	Biology



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## Undergraduate Poster Presentations

Location: Alumni Hall – Student Center  
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Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
Insights in Conservation of Vernal Pools in Western Connecticut	Ian MacKennedy	Dr. Michelle Krackowski	Biology & Earth Science
PRMD14 Expression in Cloned Bovine Blastocysts	Maggie Rutledge	Dr. Sadie Marjani	Biology (Accelerated)
Effects of Acetaminophen Exposure on Regenerative Growth in Planarian Worms	Alani Adams and Isabelle Thomas	Dr. Betsy Dobbs-McAuliffe	Biomolecular Science
Design and Synthesis of Peptoid Metal Chelators	Tyler Violette	Dr. Dilani Chathurika Dehigaspitiya	Chemistry
Simultaneous determination of water-soluble Vitamins from Fruit Tissues of Jaltomata spp. using Ultra High Performance Liquid Chromatography (uHPLC) – Photo Diode Array (PDA) – tandem mass spectrometry (MSn)	Colby Perkins	Dr. Sourav Chakraborty	Chemistry
Digital Equity Pathway Feasibility Study	Logan Konopka, Dylan Karpel, Fiona Lau, Warren Pitcher, and Connor Vassar	Dr. Tony Deluca	Computer Engineering Technology
Joint Attention Determination Using Eye Tracking and Neural Networks	Jacob Rulka	Dr. Md Rafiul Hassan	Computer Science
Fluids in an Oriskany Sandstone Core from the Chestnut Ridge Anticline, Pennsylvania	Kaitlyn Cannon	Dr. Mark Evans	Earth Science
Supporting Bilingual Students in a Classroom Setting: A Field Experience	Damaris Rivera	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Education-Spanish
Possible evidence for ancient earthquakes in central Connecticut	Raechel Bouchard and Cooper Stone	Dr. Wizevich	Environmental Earth Science
Design as Public Practice: Co-Authoring Cultural Work in Public Contexts	Jeanne Criscola, Tyler Nguyen, Kamiya Dingle, Angelo Reyes	Dr. Jeanne Criscola	Graphic Information Design
Hooked on the Unknown: Analyzing the Rise of Blind Box and Subscription	Nida Khan	Dr. Yiru Wang	Graphic Information Design



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Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
Evaluating the Effectiveness of Training and Development Programs for Student Workers at Central Connecticut State University	Skylar Rutka, Tristan Burke, Zoha Murtaza, and Emma Swindon	Dr. Heidi Hughes	Management-Human Resources
Approaches to Full Density Consolidation of Al and Al Alloy Powders	Jayson Arichavala	Dr. Steven Johnson	Mechanical Engineering
Plant based bioremediation assay of gasoline contaminated soil	Brandon Foran	Dr. Micheal Davis	Molecular and Cellular Biology
A Multicultural Redesign of a Physics Unit: Energy, Inequality, and Natural Disasters	Renaë Conneran	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Physics
How does light scattering affect laser measurements for atmospheric studies and its impact on climate change?	Steve J. Hoyos, Laska Patrycja, Emmanuel Boucaud, Jhon Zaldivar.	Dr. Nimmi Sharma	Physics
Optimizing the Electro-Optics of Polymer Dispersed Liquid Crystals for Smart Window Applications	Arden Chiucarello	Dr. Yuriy Garbovskiy	Physics
Low-Cost Simultaneous Stellar Photometry and CLiDAR for Nighttime AOD Measurement: Langley-Plot Validation of a Multi-Modal Framework	Tess Masi, Emmanuel Boucad, Steve Hoyos, Patrycja Laska, Tessa Masi, Jhonjairo Zaldivar	Dr. Nimmi Sharma	Physics and Computer Science
Bridging the Gap Between Natural Language and Machine-Readable Workflows: A Large Language Model-Based Approach	Tess Masi, Arzana Konjusha, Shiqi Tan, Tessa Masi	Dr. Haoyu Wang	Physics and Computer Science
The World of Skateboarding	Sam Green	Dr Diana Cohen	Political Science
Collaborative Learning Practices- Benefits and Drawbacks in the Secondary School Setting	Daniel Lenois	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Post-Bacc Teacher Education certificate
Adverse Childhood Experiences and Perception of Functioning.	Malaysia Rodriguez	Dr. Helena Swanson	Psychological Science



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## Undergraduate Poster Presentations Location: Alumni Hall – Student Center 2-4 PM

Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
Differences in Nonromantic Relationship Satisfaction Across Cultural Worldview	Jonathan Tulier	Dr. Wallace	Psychological Sciences
Design and Fabrication of a Pulley-Drive Power Transmission System for Abrasive Disc Deburring	Jacob McCann, Diego Angeles, Thomas Roberts	Dr. Haoyu Wang	Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering
A Multi-cultural and Constructivist Approach to "The Plastic Problem" and CO2 emissions Unit	Lilli West and Emma Boothby	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Science in Education
From Observation to Instruction: Finding My Identity as an Educator	Madison Callis	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Secondary Education concentrating in English
Western Expansion: Connecting Students to the Past	Julia Serafin	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Secondary Education Social Studies
TBD	A'ya Modni	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Secondary Education/History
TBD	Nylamar Samuels	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Secondary Education: History/ Social Studies
Language, Identity, and Belonging: Deaf Children from Deaf vs. Hearing Families	Jasper Kulinski	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Secondary English Education
Western Expansion: Lesson to make Students Care	Julia Serafin	Dr. Jacob Werblow	Social Studies Secondary Education
Writing Centers and The Gender Imbalance	Rosie LaRochelle	Dr. Amanda Fields	Strategic Communications



# URCAD

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## Undergraduate Demonstrations

Location: AIH 107

Time: 9 – 11 AM

Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
Unitree Go2 Robot Dog Safety Monitor	Gray Solovyev	Dr. Stan Kurkovsky	Computer Science
High Channel Data Acquisition for CCSU Robotics Lab	Daniel Polgun, Gjin Rexhaj, Ramsundhar Venkadesan, Yulming Lee	Dr. Stan Kurkovsky	Computer Science
Industrial AI Task Orchestrator	Tyler Brown, Charles Koepke, Eldin Bukalo, Kareem Ghonaim, Tyler Brown	Dr. Stan Kurkovsky	Computer Science
Augmented Reality Infrastructure Inspection System	Kelly Ruiz, Jacob Mancini, Andrew Reitenbach, Kelly Ruiz, and Dhairya Thakur	Dr. Stan Kurkovsky	Computer Science

## Undergraduate Demonstrations

Location: AIH Lobby

Time: 12 – 2 PM

Title	Student(s)	Advisor	Major
CNC Metal Lathe	David Stolarz	Dr. Reza Ghodsi	Mechanical Engineering
PEP26 Workforce Development Competition, Planing Boat	Dephtany Ayala, Dinh Doan, Skylre Hine	Dr. David Sianez and Dr. Reza Ghodsi	Mechanical Engineering Technology
Motor Thrust Stand	Andrew Behrendt	Dr. Hassan Shibly	Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering Technology
pH Bot: Robotics to help your Lab Spaces	Winston Sanchez-Martinez	Dr. Maurer	Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering Technology