

# Increasing STEM Persistence Through CUREs and Community

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Early exposure to research experiences has been shown to increase retention of STEM students from historically excluded groups. However, opportunities for undergraduates to work in a research lab are usually limited. Another indicator for persistence in STEM is developing a sense of belonging in the scientific community, but fostering an inclusive environment can be challenging. For increasing access to research for STEM students, I will discuss Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) and describe implementation of the Biochemistry Authentic Research Inquiry Learning (BASIL) CURE as well as integration of protein crystallography into the CURE. Additionally a strategy to help with growing community through the creation of a specialized student group will be explored.