

PURE 2020-2021 Annual Activities Report

Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences

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Introduction

With COVID-19, 2021 continues to be a year of unprecedented time for WOU, and PURE. Similar to the year of 2020, social distancing, online, virtual instruction for most of the classes on the campus, posed many restrictions for PURE to function as an institutional committee to continue to support undergraduate research experiences on campus. Despite the challenges, PURE continued to advocate for undergraduate research at WOU through two major routes: Academic Excellence Showcase and the journal of PURE insights, along with many other innovative activities and events.

This report summarizes what PURE accomplished in the past year and the new directions and opportunities we witnessed and visioned. The year 2021 marked as a transition time as it witnessed the start of the pandemic, and documented a new era when PURE need to reimagine, and envision for a pandemic-shaped world. With the challenges imposed the COVID, online meetings and instructions, PURE found more opportunities and new ways to continue to serve undergraduates' scholarship activities through new ideas, events, and directions.

Personnel

PURE's Executive Committee 2020-21

REPRESENTATIVE	AREA	STATUS	TERM START (active start date)	TERM END	Term	Discipline/Program
Megan Patton-Lopez	COE	VOTING	1 July 2019	30 June 2022	1 st	Health and Ex. Sci.
Andrea Emerson	COE (2018 ByLaw adjustment)	VOTING	1 July 2019	30 June 2022	1 st	DEL
Joshua Daniels (Step Down, Jan 2021)	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2018	30 June 2021	1 st	Hum: English
Rebecca McCannell	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2017 (November 2017)	30 June 2020	1 st	Creative Art: Art
Feier Hou	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2019 (1 July 2013)	30 June 2022	2 nd	NSM: Biology

Margaret Manoogian	CLAS	VOTING	1 July 2017 (November 2017)	30 June 2020	1 st	Behavioral Sciences: Gerontology
Joshua Schuzle	COE	VOTING	1 July 2020	30 June 2023	1st	DEL
Gareth Hopkins	At-Large/Community	VOTING	1 July 2020	30 June 2023	1st	Biology
Lindsey Cochran	At-Large/Community	VOTING	1 July 2020	30 June 2023	1st	Grants/TRI
Colin Haines (Stepping Down, Feb 1, 2021)	Staff	VOTING	1 July 2020	30 June 2023	1st	Veterans Center
Gavin Keulks	Honors Program Director	VOTING		Indeterminate		Honors (English)
Maren Anderson	Managing Editor, PURE Insights	VOTING	1 January 2020	31 Dec 2023	1st	English
Greg Zobel	Previous Director	VOTING	1 July 2018	30 June 2021		PURE/AES; DEL
Xiaopeng Gong	Director	VOTING ---Only when ties	1 July 2020	30 June 2023		PURE/AES/DEL

PURE's Executive Committee 2019-2020

The Board's membership in 2019-2020 expanded a bit in order to be more inclusive of staff on campus as well as to balance representation between CLAS and CoE. Based on the bylaws and through an on-campus application and discussion as well as vote by the board members, three new members joined the board, including one representative from COE, one staff representative and one community representative. Due to the faculty and staff changes on campus, two board members stepped down as they retired from WOU in the middle of the year. Altogether, the board was composed of twelve members from various divisions (see Table above).

Student Workers

In 2020-21, PURE was supported by CiP intern, Jeneba Diane King, who supported PURE in Winter and Spring terms. She engaged in outreach, infrastructure support, content creation, and coordinating with MARCOM and Q-Loop, the print shop, and faculty. We also had one student worker, Chloe Miller, who was our CiP student intern

from 2017-2018; Chloe also helped with PURE, CURE, and AES in 2020-21. She provided support through the whole year.

Their activities included, but were not limited to:

- Promoting AES among students
- Coordinating, recording promotion videos
- Designing flyers for Fall and Winter CURE events
- Developing multiple communication strategies
- Helping moderating and providing tech support for AES zoom sessions
- Supporting brainstorming strategies

Costs

CiP compensated Jeneba Diane King for her efforts. Chloe was paid \$1,362.50. in total for her work.

Other Support for PURE

The support from the library continues to be incalculable this year. In particular, Stewart Baker spent a lot of time in helping plan AES this year, and holding the virtual AES conference at the Library's Digital Commons.

PURE Insights Journal Activities

PURE Insights has continued to publish actively, recruit submissions from students and faculty, and clarify submission processes and requirements. Maren Anderson assumed Editorship from 1 January 2020, and the journal released its latest issue in fall 2020. In addition to research papers, the issue also featured a performance piece from the Theatre Department, as well as three commencement speeches from the 2020 virtual graduation. In January 2021, a virtual celebration was held for the authors and performers of the issue.

Academic Excellence Showcase Activities

AES Planning Committee

The AES planning meeting was relatively small in scale due to the nature of a virtual conference. In Winter term, the following participants met online to discuss and plan for AES 2021:

- Stewart Baker, Library
- Camila Gabadon, Library
- Lisa Catto, Marcom
- Kent St Clair, Marcom
- Xiaopeng Gong, PURE Director

Digital Platform

Digital Commons from the library was used as the platform for 2021 AES. This was the 2nd year that Digital Commons was used. Based on the positive feedback from the campus about last year's AES, the planning committee and PURE board felt that Digital

Commons has many advantages (e.g., increasing the global access to WOU students' scholarship and research work) and should be continued to be adopted this year.

Presentation Format

In addition to pre-recorded presentations, AES 2021 also features a series of zoom presentations. Zoom presentation allow maximum flexibilities for students from divisions across the campus to meet the submission deadline, also it allows interactions between presenters and the audience. A total of eleven zoom sessions were held this year, including two plenary sessions. Notably, many zoom sessions featured a group of student presenters. For example, students who worked on their capstone projects.

Student Content & Abstracts Gone Digital

As AES 2021 was virtual, all of the presentations, posters, and content for 2020 was digital.

Committee Service

The PURE Director served on several committees during 2020-21: a non-voting seat on IRB and a voting seat on the Outstanding Student Award Committee.

Website

The website for PURE continues to exist and act as a key point of communication around and for AES and PURE. However, management of the site and content creation demand significant attention to keep things going. In the future, this report suggests that work should be delegated to a student intern, be rolled back, or have another content publication/management plan developed with the PURE Board.

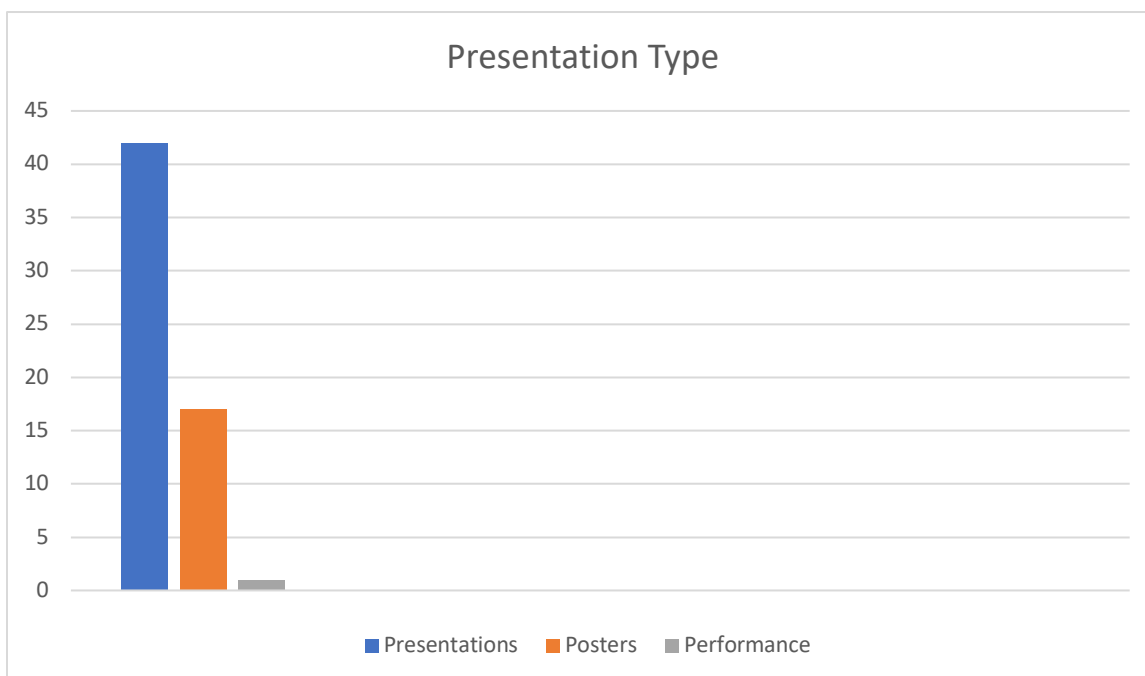
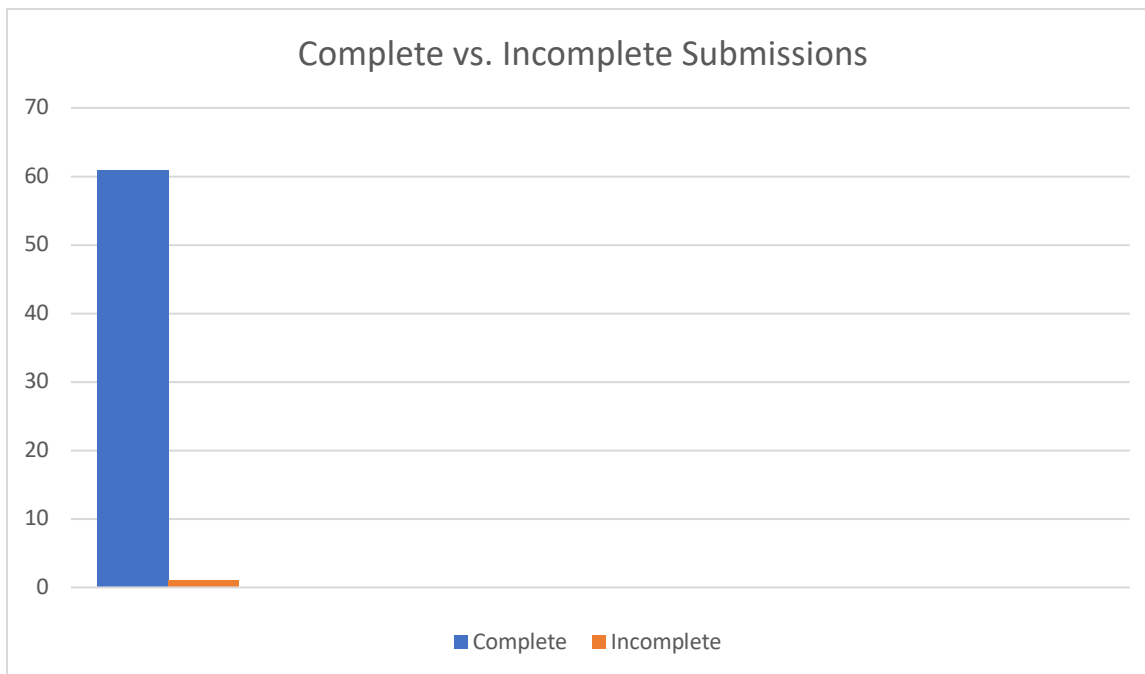
Print/proceedings publication

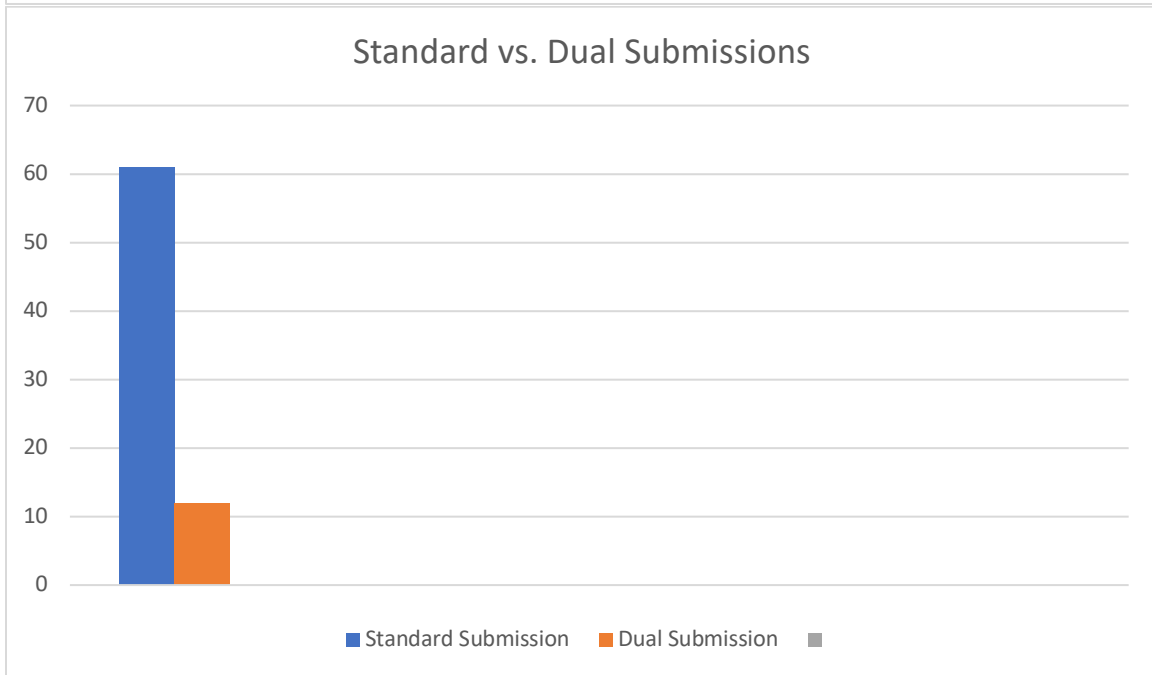
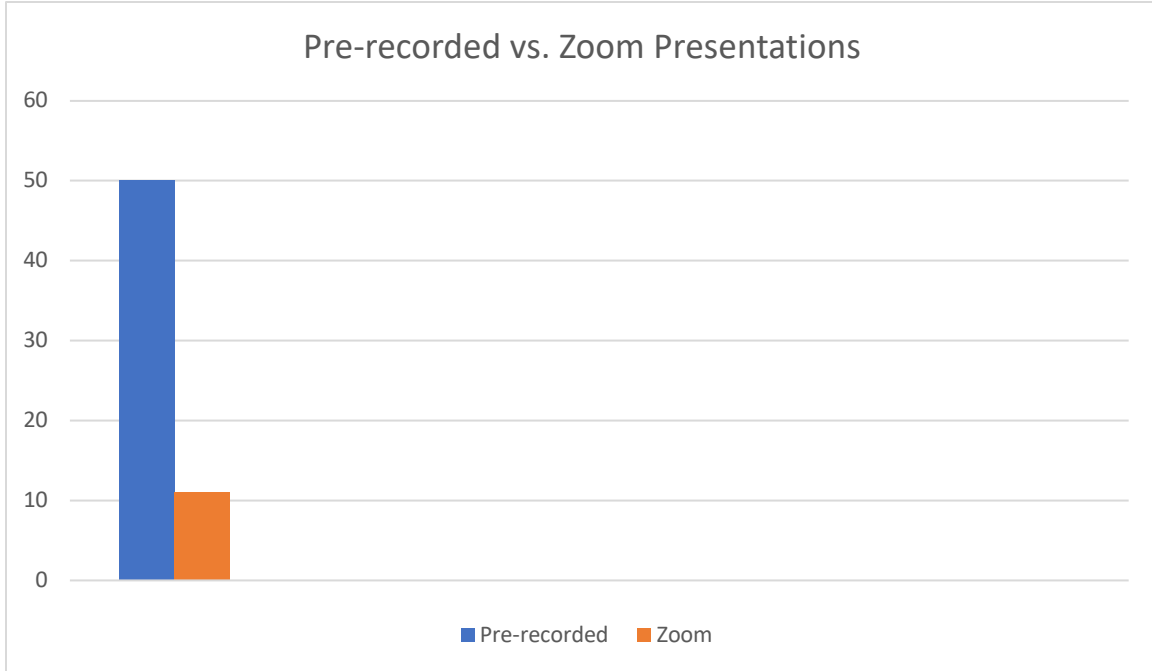
There were no printed proceedings this year. All proceedings were posted on PURE website and Digital Commons.

Showcase held on 27 May, 2021

AES 2021 was held on 27 May 2021. This meant that all the content on the website went live and was accessible on the 27th and for two weeks into June. The following charts below show the important statistics around Virtual AES activity this past year.

It is noteworthy that the year of 2021 was heavily impacted by the pandemic. For example, in 2020 May when AES was held, WOU was influenced only during the period of Spring term, from March to June. However, the entire academic year of 2021 was under the hit of Covid, when the whole campus engaged in distant learning, was very low in research activities, and suffered from lockdown/virtual learning fatigue. It is wise to consider the following statistics with the context in mind, as comparisons with previous years would lead to errors.





Note: Standard submission: submit to AES; Dual submission: submit to AES and PURE Insights

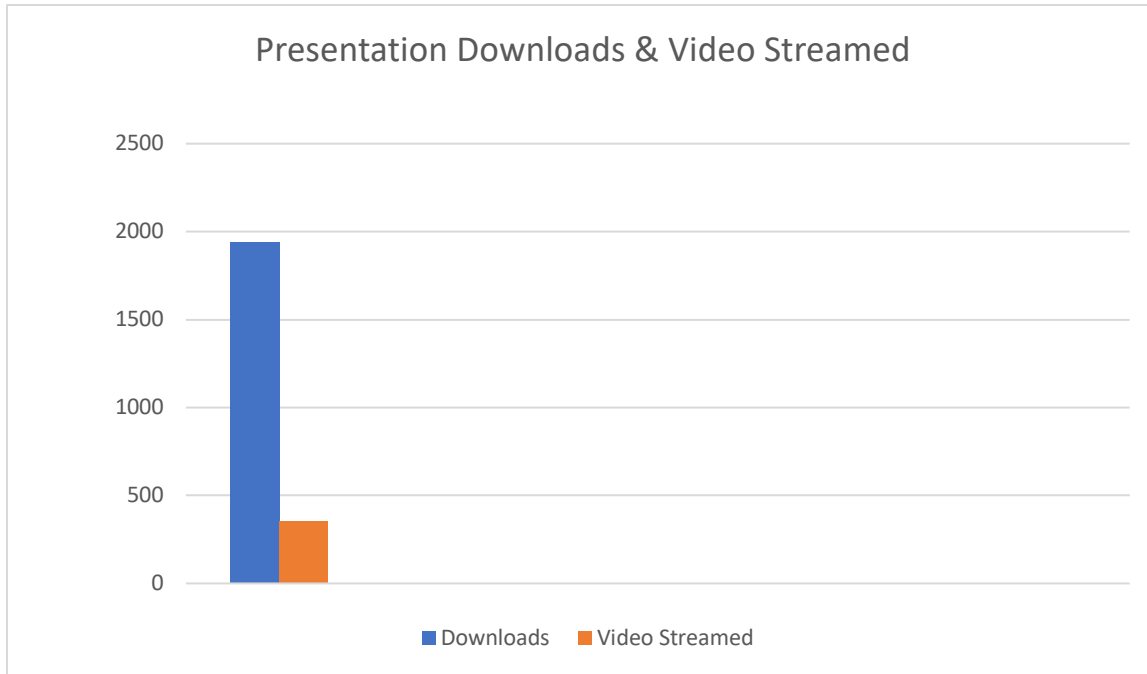
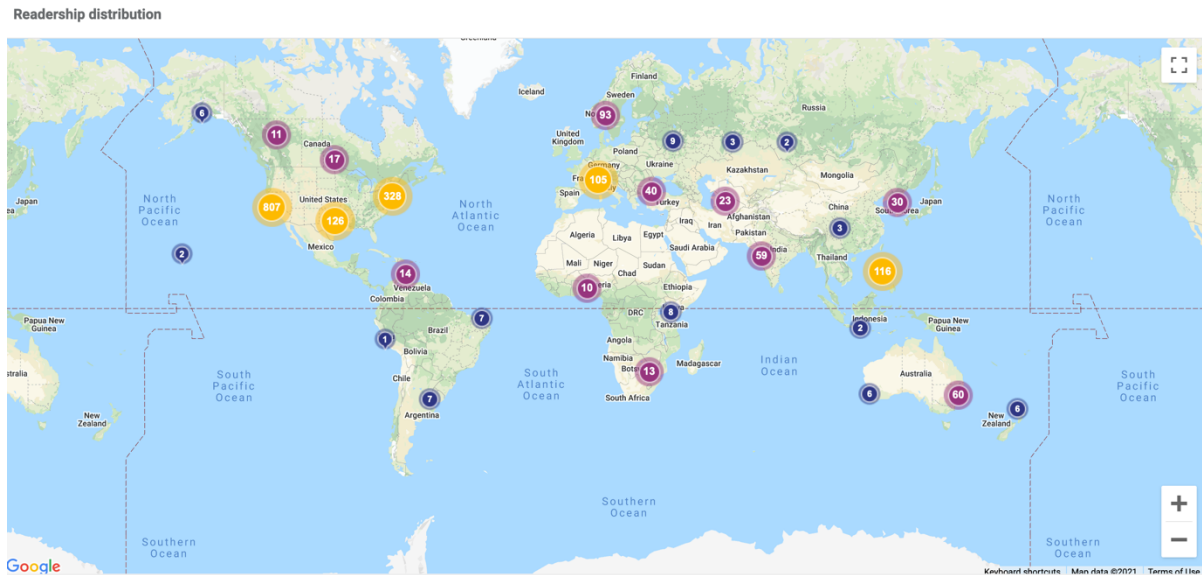


Figure 1. Reader Distribution



Some major takeaways from the charts and figures above: AES 2021 featured a total of 61 submission, including 11 zoom presentations. Among all submissions, one was marked as incomplete. There were 42 presentations, 17 posters, and 1 performance. Of all the submissions, 12 expressed interests in submitting to the journal of PURE Insights, who would be contacted after the event. From May 27 to Jun 11, there were a total of 1,940 downloads and 356 video streams around the world.

PURE General Program Activities

CURE Fall and Winter

We planned and hosted two campus-wide events in Fall and Winter terms. Collaborations for Undergraduate Research Experience (CURE) in fall 2020 featured a group of talented faculty and researchers from different disciplines on the campus to share about their research endeavors. The winter CURE event focused on a panel of speakers targeting on the basics of AES, submission to the virtual platform of Digital Commons, IRB 101, and designing digital posters, video recording and edits. Both events were held virtually online, with a good number of participants from WOU students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Both events were recorded, captioned, and were posted on WOU social media, and broadcasted on WOU TV, thus were able to reach out to a broader WOU campus community in the months to come.

With the positive feedback from attenders, we plan to continue to hold CURE event in the year 2022.

Three-Minute Project

We started a new three-minute project which provides a platform for students, faculties and staff who are conducting research to share their research projects. Interested participants will contact PURE, submit a short video that is about three minute long. Assistance for video recording, editing, or captioning will be provided upon request. All the videos will be shared on campus, on PURE website and WOU social media. We tried to launched the project in Spring term, got some feedback, and made a promotion video about the project, shared information about the project on WOU's Academic Newsletter. The project will be officially launched in fall 2021.

Instagram Project

PURE has been exploring new ways to promote for undergraduate research in the past year. In particular, with most institutional activities moving online. We saw opportunities to reach out to students through virtual events and social media. The board, as well as our CIP intern and student worker have been brainstorming ideas and strategies to use Instagram as a platform to showcase PURE, AES, PURE Insights and other PURE sponsoring events such as CURE and three-minute project. By Spring term, we have developed some plans to launch some initial projects such as bi-weekly Instagram stories to feature research team, projects and events on campus. We plan to start the project in the year of 2021-22.

Searches Conducted

In Spring 2021, we conducted a campus-wide search to fill three seats: 1 staff, 1 LAS, and 1 Library and Media services. Four applications were received, and the board selected 1 staff/library representative and 1 LAS representative. The new members will join the board in July 1, 2021.

Proposals submitted

During Spring 2021, a CIP Internship application was submitted for 2021-22.

PURE Office Space

PURE maintains its office in the Old CoE building for storage.

On-campus partnerships

We worked to develop strong relationships with the IRB committee during Fall 2020. PURE and IRB co-sponsored CURE event in Fall 2020, and plan to seek future partnerships in the three-minute project in 2021-22.

PURE 2020-21 Budget Overview

Of its \$7,200 budget, PURE only spent \$4,207.95. Thus we were left with \$2992.05.

This savings is due to not having to pay for all the expenses of an on-site, face-to-face conference.

A copy of the monthly PURE transaction report is attached to this report.

PURE: 2020-21 Goals Accomplished

- (1). The goal of PURE's outreach to more students through hosting seminars and research talk was met. PURE held two CURE events in Fall and Winter terms, one focused on research sharing, the other targeted on AES.
- (2). Goal #2, make data-informed decisions. PURE's many decisions are made based on campus' feedback. For example, we added some new features of 2021 virtual AES based on feedback about 2020 AES event, to provide more positive experience for WOU students. 2021 AES's theme: Community Through Crisis was an idea selected from campus responses to a survey.
- (3). AES submission systems. At the beginning of Winter term, the director reviewed the two systems, met with Camila and Stewart Bakers online to discuss the two existing submission systems. Given that 2021 AES was held entirely online, we decided that Digital Commons should be used for 2021 AES event.

SWV Analysis

Strengths

PURE is fortunate to have a board that is composed of a group of representatives from various disciplines across the campus. They are knowledgeable, responsive, supportive and are engaged. In addition, PURE has a talented student worker along with an energetic, imaginative CIP intern. The personnel are the most invaluable asset for PURE to continue to stay active and innovative amid the Covid pandemic.

Weaknesses

Two main restraints exist: not enough time, and personnel. With AES as the major event organized by PURE, the annual planning, preparation, advertising, coordinating and putting everything together drains a high percentage of PURE meeting time and energy, not to mention the journal of PURE Insights. In addition, we got a little ambitious last year, and organized a few other events such as CURE, and spent a lot of time

brainstorming, envisioning using online platforms, multimedia to promote for undergraduate research (e.g., the Instagram Story).

Visions

Given the two Virtual AES online experience in 2021 and the year before, based on community's feedback, PURE has the potential to use multiple online forms, including Digital Commons, social media such as Instagram to hold virtual events such as CURE and AES. The board envision that these online tools can reach more undergraduates and exert a more lasting and deeper influence on the WOU community. We also hope to use multimedia such as videos to help build a research community on campus. For example, in Spring terms, with the help of Q-loop team housed at COE, PURE made its advertising video about the three-minute project, which will help to introduce the project to WOU, and encourage students and faculties to share their research endeavors.

Goals

PURE aims to continue to explore online platforms such as social media to advocate for WOU's undergraduate research, to increase PURE's visibility on campus, and to promote for Academic Excellence Showcase attendance and involvement.

We plan to reach out to more students and start build a research community through various projects, including CURE, three-minute project and the Instagram stories project.

PURE plan to explore new ways for the annual AES. For example, in 2021-22, the board will discuss possibilities of holding a hybrid AES (both face to face and online), to allow more flexibilities for students' presentation, and maximize WOU students' research visibility and influence internationally.