Message from
John Francis:

A university student's education is not limited to the receipt of an unchanging body of knowledge. A university education is about how we think critically as well as how we gather knowledge about our changing world. An education at a research university is best understood as a shared endeavor between the faculty and the students contributing together to our understanding of ourselves and the world around us. It is an education that builds on the foundations of past scholarship in preparing students to contribute to future knowledge. Education, at Utah, is very much an ongoing, creative process that integrates research and creative endeavors within and outside the classroom.

Over the course of a program of study at our university, we want our students not to be passive learners but to become active participants in making their education a rich and ongoing endeavor. An obvious and important way to achieve that goal is to invite our undergraduates to work with our faculty. Our faculty are engaged in a wide range of research and creative endeavors that offer our students many ways in which they may contribute to understanding the world in which they live.

There are many appealing qualities to this journal of undergraduate research. It's most appealing quality, in my judgment, is the solid evidence that it provides for how much our undergraduates can achieve when we invite them to join the community of scholars. This scholarly community is, after all, the very essence of a research university.

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