

Faculty Support Urged for the 14th Annual Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium

Preparations are in progress for the Fourteenth Annual Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium to be held Friday, April 21, 2006, on the second floor of the Commuter Center. During this symposium, undergraduate and graduate students from the College of Arts and Sciences, Business and Management, Education, and the Graduate College will be presenting their research and creative activities before an audience of their peers.

“At this juncture of the preparations,” said John Al-Bazi, symposium co-coordinator and associate professor of Chemistry,” we ask all faculty members to attend the symposium and encourage their students to do so. Presenters will be tremendously enthused to see their instructors around them in an atmosphere of encouragement and support. As faculty members, many of us remember the days when our instructors stood by our side and gave us a dose of encouragement to embark on our first ever research or creative activity venture. Let’s all extend the same gesture to our students.”

There will be over 130 presentations that will expand our knowledge and enlighten us. Here are some reflections from faculty and staff who have participated in the Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium in the past:

Dr. Dragan Milovanovic from Justice Studies says, “Excellent opportunity for students to participate in a conference like setting to present their research papers and creative activities. Excellent investment in the future for participating students! It provides an opportunity for students to experience the art of presenting research papers and creative activities to various audiences. With faculty mentors, students at NEIU are provided a conference like setting for presenting their research papers and creative activities. This considerably raises the level of scholarly activity on the campus.”

Dr. Suzanne G. Benson says, “It is my impression that the Student Research & Creative Symposium provides our students with an opportunity to present a paper or creative activity in a protected, caring environment. I have had a number of students present research at symposiums. Each began the process with apprehension; fearful of presenting their material in a new venue. However, once their papers were complete and their presentations practiced, confidence emerged. They were nervous the evening before the symposium and on the day of their presentations, but once their papers were successfully presented these students were relieved, exited, and proud of their accomplishments. Additionally, faculty members serving on panels as discussants provide thoughts that help the students look at their projects from a different perspective, and most to enhance their skills and knowledge, and to mentor a student through the process is truly exciting and rewarding.”