Q: Why participate?

A: The experience gives you insight into a topic that cannot be gained any other way. The research process is a valuable skill to learn, and it is transferable to many areas of life. The experience provides an opportunity to work closely with a faculty member. Employers and graduate school admissions officers are always looking for the experience that distinguishes an individual from other applicants for employment or entry to graduate school—this is a great way to set yourself apart from your peers. Collaborating with the students in your classes or Living/ Learning Communities on a project that relates to your major is a great way to make new friends and learn more about your area of study. Many students report that the experience is FUN!

Q: Why call it research experience if dance, studio art and philosophy papers are included?

A: Many different activities combine serious inquiry into an area of interest or a body of knowledge, learning how to analyze information from sources, learning to think in an organized and systematic way about a subject, and producing a result that presents the student with a new learning experience. Such activities could include planning and researching a work of studio art, choreographing a dance program or writing an original music composition, short story or theatrical production.

Q: If I present my research at the SRU Symposium for Student Research, Scholarship and Creative Achievement, can I still present it at a regional or national conference within my discipline?

A: Although every discipline is different, most disciplines will allow you to present your work at a local venue AND a regional/national conference. Please check with your faculty mentor to determine your discipline's policy.

Q: How do I get started if I want to apply for the Symposium?

A: First, talk to your professor about submitting a project to the Symposium. Projects could include laboratory or field research (as in the basic and applied sciences), statistical analyses, outcomes of surveys and samples, Action Research conducted as part of the teacher training Field Experience, scholarly inquiry in the humanities, artistic creations, dance and choreography, creative writing, poetry reading and service projects. If you have questions about the Symposium, call or email the Office of Grants, Research and Sponsored Programs at 724-738-4849 or symposium@sru.edu.

Q: What do I have to do to submit an application?

A: The SRU Symposium Call for Abstracts Form is now being accepted. Please submit the form via email to symposium@sru.edu by midnight, on the deadline date. (NOTE: No late submissions will be accepted.) Print the completed form, obtain signatures and submit hard copy to the Office of Grants, Research and Sponsored Programs. The link to The SRU Symposium Call for Abstracts Form is http://www.sru.edu/academics/research/student-symposium. Don't wait until the last day before you pull this together! Work on this ahead of time, just in case you have questions when you fill in the form.

Q: What happens after I submit my application?

A: Your submission will be reviewed by a panel of faculty members from your College. You will be told if your submission has been accepted for the Symposium approximately 3 weeks after submission.

Q: Do I get to pick the time I make my presentation?

A: You will be assigned a specific time to present based on the number of submissions from each category (oral presentations, poster presentations, performances and exhibits). The final schedule will be decided approximately 3 weeks after you are notified that your abstract has been accepted.