BioExplore aims to provide an inclusive venue for students interested in learning about and sharing their passions for research in bioengineering and related fields, with a focus on providing tools for freshmen and sophomores to get involved in undergraduate research in the biosciences. Especially as the College of Engineering prepares to accept their first cohort of Engineering Undeclared students, BioExplore is perfectly poised to inspire current and prospective students to pursue bioengineering-related research, and connect their interests with UW's world-class research groups.

Project Mission

BioExplore hosts research presentations, lab tours to expose students to research in and around campus, and workshops to help students find and apply for research positions. In addition to providing resources for our attendees, BioExplore provides its club officers with an opportunity to build skills in strong verbal and nonverbal communication and event coordination.

Reflection

BioExplore’s mission resonates personally with me because research has been a central part of my Husky experience since Winter 2017. From firsthand knowledge and conversations with peers, I am very familiar with the main mental hurdles that stand in the way of research involvement. In addition to further developing my communications, organizational, and public speaking skills, BioExplore provides me with invaluable experience in building a sustainable organizational strategy. These experiences will strengthen the foundation for my future goals as a researcher, educator, and innovator. I sincerely hope and am actively working to ensure that BioExplore will continue to be a venue for other students to similarly grow as leaders in the undergraduate research community.

Acknowledgements

My work is generously supported by a Mary Gates Leadership Scholarship. BioExplore would not have been possible without the support of Dr. Alyssa Taylor, Mr. Clay Schwenn, and Ms. Holly Williams. I wish to thank BioExplore's allies in the bioengineering department and the College of Engineering. I am also grateful for the passionate commitment of BioExplore’s student leaders: David McIntyre, Ankita Joshi, Sarah Slack, Arman Naderi, and Hienschl Nguyen.

Target Audience

BioExplore’s target population extends well beyond the BioE department. In 2017, 20% of the bachelor’s degrees conferred by UW were in the biological sciences or health professions, with another 14% in science and engineering, some of whom specialized in biomedical applications. Many of these students will benefit from participating in the UW’s research community in and outside of bioengineering.

2017 UW Bachelor’s Degrees by Subject

- Biological and Life Sciences: 67%
- Health Professions: 13%
- Physical Sciences: 7%
- Engineering: 4%
- Other: 10%

I am grateful to benefit from the mentorship and support of Dr. Alyssa Taylor and Mr. Clay Schwenn, who provide encouragement and advice for BioExplore's growth, as well as my own leadership development.

Sofia, BioE sophomore, now researching tissue engineering with Dr. Deok-Ho Kim