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http://www.ship.edu/honors

**SU Honors Student Participates in National Undergraduate Research Program**

A Shippensburg University Honors Program student was selected to participate in the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program, funded by the National Science Foundation. The program took place at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio from June 2-August 8, 2014.

Kelsey Mengle, a senior Chemistry and Mathematics major, worked in the laboratory of Dr. William B. Connick, Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati. The faculty and students investigated the vapochromic behavior of platinum(II) terpyridyl salts. “These salts, when exposed to particular volatile organic compounds (VOCs), change color from yellow to dark orange/red. Due to this visual change, the platinum(II) salts can be used in future sensing applications for various organic solvents,” explained Mengle.

At the end of the REU, the students created and presented posters on their research projects. Mengle received the John Alexander Award for the top research poster presentation, and she was nominated to present her research at the Council on Undergraduate Research’s REU Symposium in Arlington, Virginia in October. Mengle also plans to pursue publication of her research findings.

Along with the incredible opportunities that accompanied engaging in an intensive research opportunity, Mengle also enjoyed discovering the city of Cincinnati and connecting with students from other universities. “I tended to go out with my roommate to the Clifton area of Cincy where we would get the famous Graeter’s ice cream or try out new restaurants,” noted Mengle. “It was nice to meet other chemistry students from around the country and compare our college experiences.”

NSF funds numerous research opportunities for undergraduate students through its REU program. REU’s are available for many STEM majors, and programs take place year round in national and international locations. For more information, visit http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/reu/.

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*The Honors Program at Shippensburg University provides an outstanding undergraduate experience that emphasizes scholarship, leadership, and service. The program involves 175 students who are selected based on their academic achievement, intellectual curiosity, and evidence of leadership and civic engagement. Students benefit from small classes; outstanding instruction; exciting research and study abroad opportunities, and recreational, and cultural activities. For more information, please visit http://www.ship.edu/honors.*