



What's Missing?:

Literature Review of Culture and Undergraduate Research

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Introduction

- Culture is defined as the “**whole complex of traditional behavior which has been developed by the human race and is successively learned by each generation**” (Mead, 1937, p.17).
- Lack of diversity in STEM graduate programs leads to diversity problems in STEM professions (Haeger & Fresquez, 2016).
- Undergraduate research helps students develop confidence, communication, and critical thinking skills necessary for postgraduate degrees (Parker, 2018).

Methods

- Qualitative Descriptive Literature Review
- Articles used were peer-reviewed, open access articles from the United States.
- **Search Terms:** undergraduate research, undergraduate research and culture, ethnic culture acknowledge undergraduate research, impact ethnic culture undergraduate research, cultural acknowledge and undergraduate research, ethnic diversity and undergraduate research, ethnic diversity impact on undergraduate research, cultural diversity in undergraduate research.
- 20 articles selected after the initial search.
- Two articles kept after the secondary search.

Results

- The two articles encompassed three overall themes:
 - **Awareness vs. Engagement**
 - **Misconceptions of Research**
 - **Benefits to Minorities**



Conclusion

- Two major issues for minority students engaging in undergraduate research:
 - **Biases and improper environments**
 - **No perceived need for research engagement**
- A large gap in knowledge exists when it comes to culture and its influence on undergraduate researchers.

Recommendations

- Further research must be done on students' perception of undergraduate research due to their culture.
- Advertising for research opportunities could be spread to multicultural centers around campus to attract students from different backgrounds.

