2026 URC Award Recipients:

Lightning Talks:

Susannah Donoghue: DRL+GNN Architecture Tested on New Topologies
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Caroline Bailey: The Effects of Developmental Care and Kangaroo Care on Physiological Outcomes in Premature NICU Infants
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Creative Activities:

Kylee Schexnider: Preserving Cajun Folklore through Mediums of Storytelling
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Emily Johnson & Erik Mender: UL Piano Palooza: Fostering Musicianship through Group Piano
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Oral Presentations:

Alyssa Borel: A Thematic Analysis of Qualitative Responses to a Sexual Assault Scenario
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Cylie Pennington: Establishing a Galleria Mellonella Infection Model to Assess the Effects of Prior Hydrocarbon Exposure on Vibro vulniflcus Virulence
Nicholls State University

Maria Farina: Assessment of ACL Reinjury Risk Factors in Collegiate Athletes
Northwester State University of Louisiana

Grant Deshotels: The Influence of Healthcare Infrastructure and Poverty on Cancer Incidence in Louisiana
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Poster: Best Proposal (Starting Research):

Riley Guillory: Fabrication Strategies for Conductive Hydrogel-Based Wearable Sensors
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Poster: Best Displayed Results:

Jacob Gautreaux: What Predicts Reported Campus Sexual Assault? Institutional Scale, Residentiality, and Administrative Capacity **and** Campus Carry and Fifteen Clery Outcomes: No Evidence of Increased Violent or Sexual Offenses, Higher Drug-Law Arrests
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Poster: Best Statistics:

Maci Louque: Determining the Best Material for Artificial Reefs Based of Molly Miller Blennies' Ability to Grip onto Each Substrate
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Poster: Best Group:

Sarah Azzam & Sophia Justice: Development of a Hybrid Hydrogel-Exosome System for Targeted Drug Delivery in Lung Cancer
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Poster: Best Overall:

Odette Garcia Valencia: Same Water, Different Discussions
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Ana Omes & Ella Stanley: Distance Matters: Determining the Maximum Sensing Distance for Optimal Growth of *Agroathelia rolfsii*
Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

Francisco Guevara: Drone Based Hyperspectral and Lidar Sensing for Mapping Flotant Marsh in the Barataria Terrebonne Estuary System
Nicholls State University

Kylie Kibodeaux: Effects of Drought on Insect Communities
University of Louisiana at Lafayette