

Megan Fegley earned a master of arts in teaching in 2013 and a PhD in organic chemistry from Binghamton University in 2014. Immediately following her PhD she combined her passions for teaching and research to help establish the First-year Research Immersion (FRI) program, of which she is now the director of. FRI is a university-wide STEM program, at Binghamton University that enrolls over 300 first-year science and engineering students each fall in a three-semester sequence of Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs). Megan has been involved in the design, implementation and growth of the FRI program and curriculum since its implementation and therefore has had a direct hand in growing the program from its initial three research streams to 10 and counting, expanding access from 90 students to over 300. FRI has been the first step towards the important initiative on the Binghamton campus that all science and engineering majors have the opportunity to enroll in CUREs early in their college career. Using the lessons learned through FRI, Megan has helped to lead CURE transformation efforts for introductory science courses at Binghamton and inspire other programs like the Source Project, a humanities and social science research CURE program. She and her team of faculty are helping to disseminate their expertise and research on CUREs across campus, the State University of New York (SUNY) system, and beyond with a goal to transform the way we teach and engage students in research across the country.