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Laura Taalman* (laurataalman@gmail.com). *Kick-starting undergraduate research.*

Undergraduate research is so vital that every math major - especially those interested in pursuing graduate school - should participate in some kind of research activity. However, not every student is ready to jump into undergraduate research, and not every department has programs in place to support that research. In this talk we will discuss ways to solve both of these problems through the use of 1-credit semester courses, undergraduate research conferences, internal summer programs, and even innovative 3D-printing projects that can serve as jumping off points for students and departments alike. Early exposure to mathematical research can help inspire students to continue in mathematics as well as make them more competitive for acceptance into future research projects. In turn, successful introductory programs can help bolster a department's bid to obtain university or national funding for larger undergraduate research programs. We will review specific examples of piloting and mentoring such early undergraduate research programs and examine their effect on future student and departmental activities. (Received August 30, 2014)