Undergraduate research is a transformative opportunity for undergraduates in a breadth of disciplines. Furthermore, graduate programs in the mathematical sciences increasingly look for undergraduate research as one indicator of students’ fitness for research. At some institutions, many (or all) opportunities for undergraduate research may be “extra-curricular” and are often unpaid. This creates a troubling equity gap, particularly for students with significant financial need who may need to maximize their out-of-class time working.

One remedy for this issue that has been growing in popularity nationwide is the use of federal and state work-study funds to provide paid undergraduate research opportunities for qualifying students. The structure of work-study dictates that about 75% of students’ wages covered by financial aid, making such programs “force multipliers” for institutional funds. We present our experiences creating the Education through Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (EUReCA!) program at the University of Colorado Denver. Following our path from a small pilot in 2016-17 to a program supporting over 70 scholars, we will share successes, challenges and lessons learned that may be of interest to others hoping to start such a program. (Received September 16, 2019)