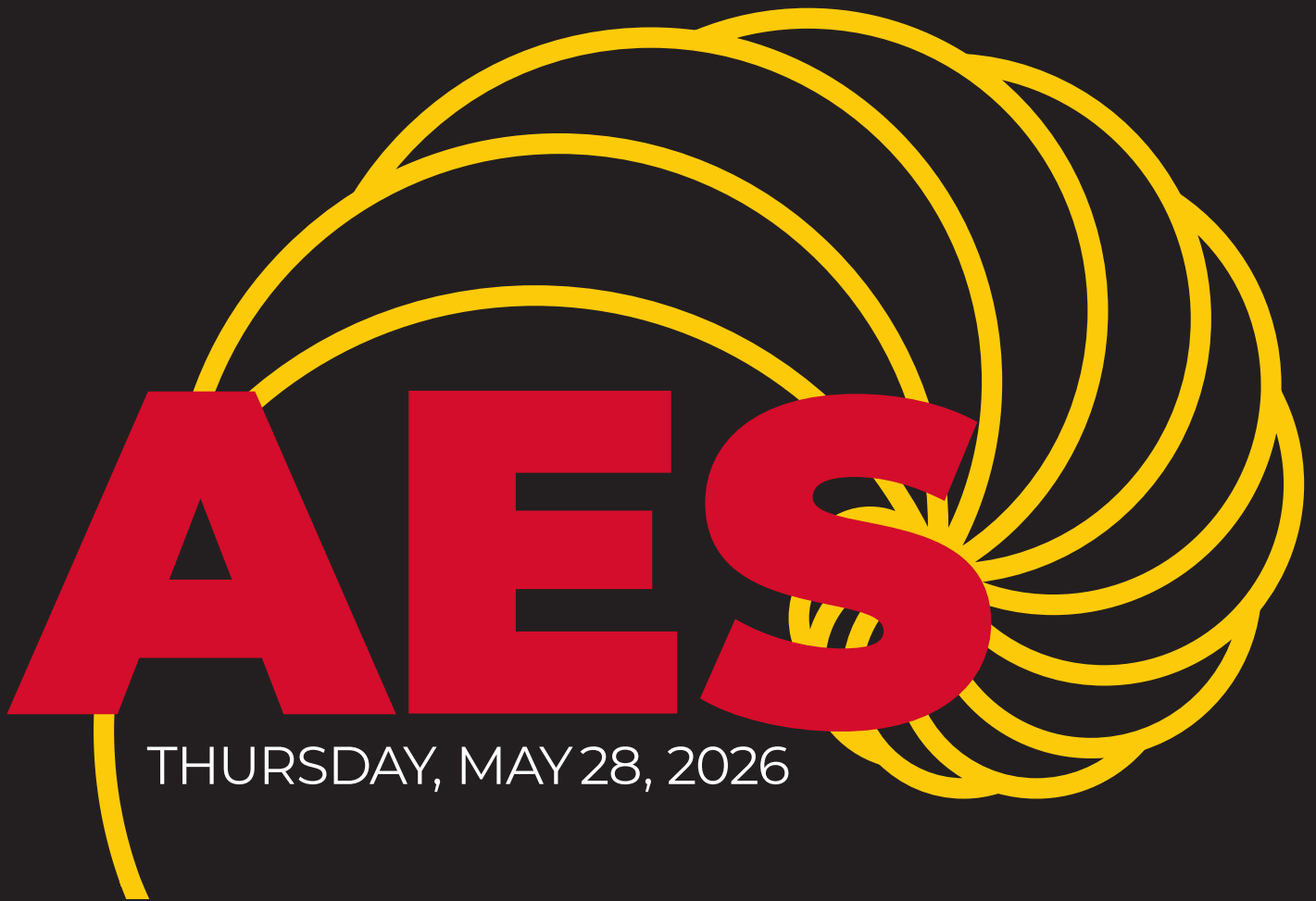


Academic Excellence Showcase



THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026

**A CELEBRATION OF
STUDENT SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE**

wou.edu/aes



Western Oregon UNIVERSITY
Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SHOWCASE SCHEDULE

TIME	ROOM	SESSION TITLE	TYPE
8:30-10:00	Willamette Room, WUC	Plenary	Event (speaker, award, etc.)
8:30-5:00	Cannon Gallery and ITC Flux Space	58th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition	Posters
10:30-12:20	Columbia WUC	Natural Sciences Research Talks	Presentations (Talks)
10:30-12:30	ITC 211	Art & Design Portfolio Presentations	Presentations (Talks)
10:30-2:00	RWEC 101	History Department Senior Capstone and Phi Alpha Theta Presentations	Presentations (Talks)
10:30-12:30	Willamette Room, WUC	English Department: Recognition and Readings	Presentations (Talks)
11:30-3:00	Hamersly Library	Contemporary Issues In Special Education	Recorded Research Talks (Option for use by AES Admin Only)
12:45-3:00	Hamersly Library Lobby	Miscellaneous Posters	Posters
12:45-2:00	Hamersly Library Lobby	Leadership in Healthcare Delivery Systems	Posters
12:45-2:00	Hamersly Library Lobby	Natural Sciences Poster Session	Posters
12:45-2:00	Hamersly Library Lobby	Rizzume Mocktails	Event (speaker, award, etc.)
12:45-5:30	Calapooia WUC	Advances in River Restoration: Earth and Environmental Science Senior Seminar	Presentations (Talks)
12:45-1:45	Willamette Room, WUC	Maurice Creativity Prize	Event (speaker, award, etc.)
1:00-2:00	ITC 211	Film Studies in Communication	Presentations (Talks)
2:00-3:00	WUC Gallery Space	Senior Gallery Exhibition (8-4) and Artist Talk (2-3)	Posters
2:00-3:00	ITC 211	Public Health and Exercise Science	Presentations (Talks)
3:00-8:30	Columbia WUC	Behavioral Sciences Research Symposium	Presentations (Talks)
4:00-6:00 PM	ITC 211	Computer Science Capstone	Presentations (Talks)

WELCOME TO THE 2026 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SHOWCASE!

This is the brightest day of the year at WOU.

Every year, the Academic Excellence Showcase fills us with pride and excitement, and this year is no different. Today, this campus comes alive with the energy of WOU students who dared to ask big questions, rolled up their sleeves, and did the hard, rewarding work of real scholarship. That is something worth celebrating!

To our student presenters: you are the reason we are all here. The research, the creativity, the persistence your work represents is remarkable, and we eagerly await what you will share with us today.

To the faculty and staff who mentored, encouraged, and challenged these students along the way: thank you. Your investment in their growth is an investment in all our futures.

To the PURE Board and all the background support staff and student workers: none of this would have happened without your hard work. This showcase is more than just a little challenging to put together, yet we did it again this year.

We are thrilled to welcome back a native son, David Heil, as our Presidential Plenary keynote speaker. He is a WOU alumnus, Emmy Award-winning host of Newton's Apple, and lifelong champion of curiosity. His story is proof of the great things that can happen when a student catches the research bug.

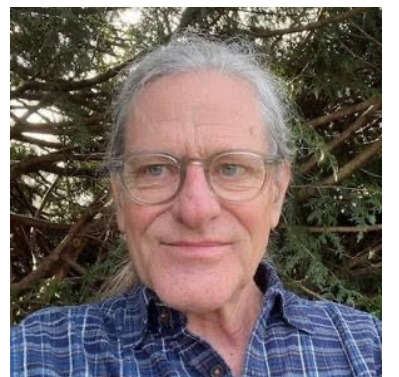
So let's celebrate, let's learn, and let's be inspired together.

Maren Bradley Anderson
Director, Program for Undergraduate Research Experiences

2026 PRESIDENTIAL PLENARY

Keynote Speaker: David Heil, innovative science educator

What started as a child with adventurous wanderings in the Dallas, Oregon city park, later became a lifelong endeavor to encourage others to explore and discover the many wonders of the world with confidence and curiosity. David will reflect on his 50-year career as a scientist, educator, host of the Emmy Award-winning PBS science series Newton's Apple, OMSI administrator, author, and global consultant. His years at WOU (then, known as WOSC) were seminal in that journey.



His talk will be about how doing research at WOU can help a student's career, no matter the major.

WOU FACULTY SPEAKERS

Brianne Salvati, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Occupational Therapy: Telehealth Lifestyle Pilot Study for Improving Occupational Performance in Older Adults

Ryan Topper, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Literature: Tree Prisons, Environmental Memory, and African Literature

PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Title	Mentors	Presenters
Introduction to River Restoration in the Pacific Northwest	Taylor, Steve	Hommel, Madelynne
Channel Modification and In-Stream Restoration for Habitat Recovery	Taylor, Steve	Gressett, Kameryn
Dams and Dam Removal	Taylor, Steve	Wolven, Amber
Restoration Monitoring, Assessment and Adaptive Management	Taylor, Steve	DeMarco, Lilian
Riparian Vegetation, Land Use and Habitat Restoration	Taylor, Steve	Graham, Gemma
Fish Passage Barriers and Remediation	Taylor, Steve	McNeel, Briana
River Restoration: Community and Social Engagement	Taylor, Steve	Carver, Mars
Floodplain Reconnection to Channel Processes	Taylor, Steve	Lozano, Vanessa
Overview of River Processes, Sediment Transport and Hydrology	Taylor, Steve	Connolly, Wyatt
River Restoration and Water Quality Improvement in the Pacific Northwest	Taylor, Steve	Hagel, Macy
Rohan Nelson Art & Design Portfolio	Bracy, Jen	Nelson, Rohan
Lili Minato's Portfolio Presentation	Bracy, Jen	Minato, Lili
Art Ed Portfolio by Jillian Brock	Bracy, Jen	Brock, Jillian
Spencer Thiel BFA Portfolio Presentation	Bracy, Jen	Thiel, Spencer
Abby Baker's Portfolio	Bracy, Jen	Baker, Abby
Noel Alvarez Portfolio (Ctrl + Alt + Create)	Bracy, Jen	Alvarez, Noel
Grace Lute Portfolio	Bracy, Jen	Lute, Grace
How We Connect to Cats	Schwartz, Jay	Williams, Myles; Lehman, Zoe
Impact of Targeted Massage Therapy on Agitation in Individuals with Dementia	Winningham, Rob	Juarez Garfias, Sara; Gedlaman, Grace
Technoference and Parent -Child Language: Does Parent Texting Impact Questions and Answers?	Strapp, Chehalis	Schreiner, Claire; Stenson, Scarlett; Gedlaman, Grace
Self-derivation through Memory Integration in the College Classroom: Building	Dugan, Jessica	Sullivan, Kylie; Kahn, Emmory;
Neurodiversity and Human-Animal Communication	Schwartz, Jay	Mayhugh, Liv
Cats' vocalizations express emotion related to attachment bonds with humans	Schwartz, Jay	Swaney, Kota; Polly, Natasha
Death of an Upperclassman—How to Engage in Death Café	Bouchard, LB	Marx, Tiffany
WildlifeAID	Morgan, Becka;	Govea, Pedro; Bowles, Marquis;
AI-Powered Interactive Storytelling Engine	Morgan, Becka	Montgomery, Logan
Stepping Onto Campus: Exploring Visitor Trends	Shannon, Thaddeus	Renault, Katrina

Title	Mentors	Presenters
Bored Gamers	Morgan, Becka	Cooper, Ian; Montgomery, Logan;
Onebite: laziest guide to meal planning	Morgan, Becka	Hazzard, Aidan; Pomrankey, Easton;
PatchNotes: Transforming Civic Tickets into Community Causes with a Gamified	Morgan, Becka	Anderson, Erin; Alter, Phillip; Iqbal, Approach to Infrastructure Reporting
Hive: Lowering the mental load of moms everywhere	Morgan, Becka	Anderson, Erin
The Complexities of Identification of Disabilities for English Language Learners	Lane, Danielle	Pyne, Katie
Maximizing the SANDI: Data-Driven Instruction and Measurable IEP Development	Lane, Danielle	Newton, Desiree
Paraprofessional Supervision and Training	Lane, Danielle	Flick, Victoria
Adapted Physical Education for Students with Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Marquez, Andrew
Redefining Transition Success for Young Adults with Autism	Lane, Danielle	Angelo, Jennifer
Defining Roles in Co-Teaching Partnerships to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Lee, Hannah
Teacher-centered and Student-centered strategies Toward Dyslexia	Lane, Danielle	Hicks, Chris
Parent Coaching in Early Intervention	Lane, Danielle	Browning, Emily
AAC Communication Partner Training	Lane, Danielle	Harry, Alice
Supporting Emotional Regulation and Reducing Challenging Behaviors in Preschool Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Karthikeyan, Dhanalakshmi
Balancing Phonics-Based and Whole-Word Approaches: Implications for Reading Instruction for Students with Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Erion, Kyler
Inclusion That Works-- From Idea to Classroom Practice	Lane, Danielle	Pointer, Jennifer
Functional Workplace Writing, Documentation, and Transition Outcomes	Lane, Danielle	Berkeley, Mark
Disproportionality in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Taunton, Catherine
When "Picture This" Doesn't Work: Mental Imagery and Learning	Lane, Danielle	Shinra, Deimos
Teaching That Clicks: The Power of Explicit Instruction for Students with ASD	Lane, Danielle	Slaughter, Courtney
Collaborative and Proactive Solutions in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Hopkins, Nina
Collaborative and Proactive Solutions in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Hopkins, Nina
Balancing Tech and Traditional Instruction in Inclusive Classrooms	Lane, Danielle	De Leenheer, Ninke

PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

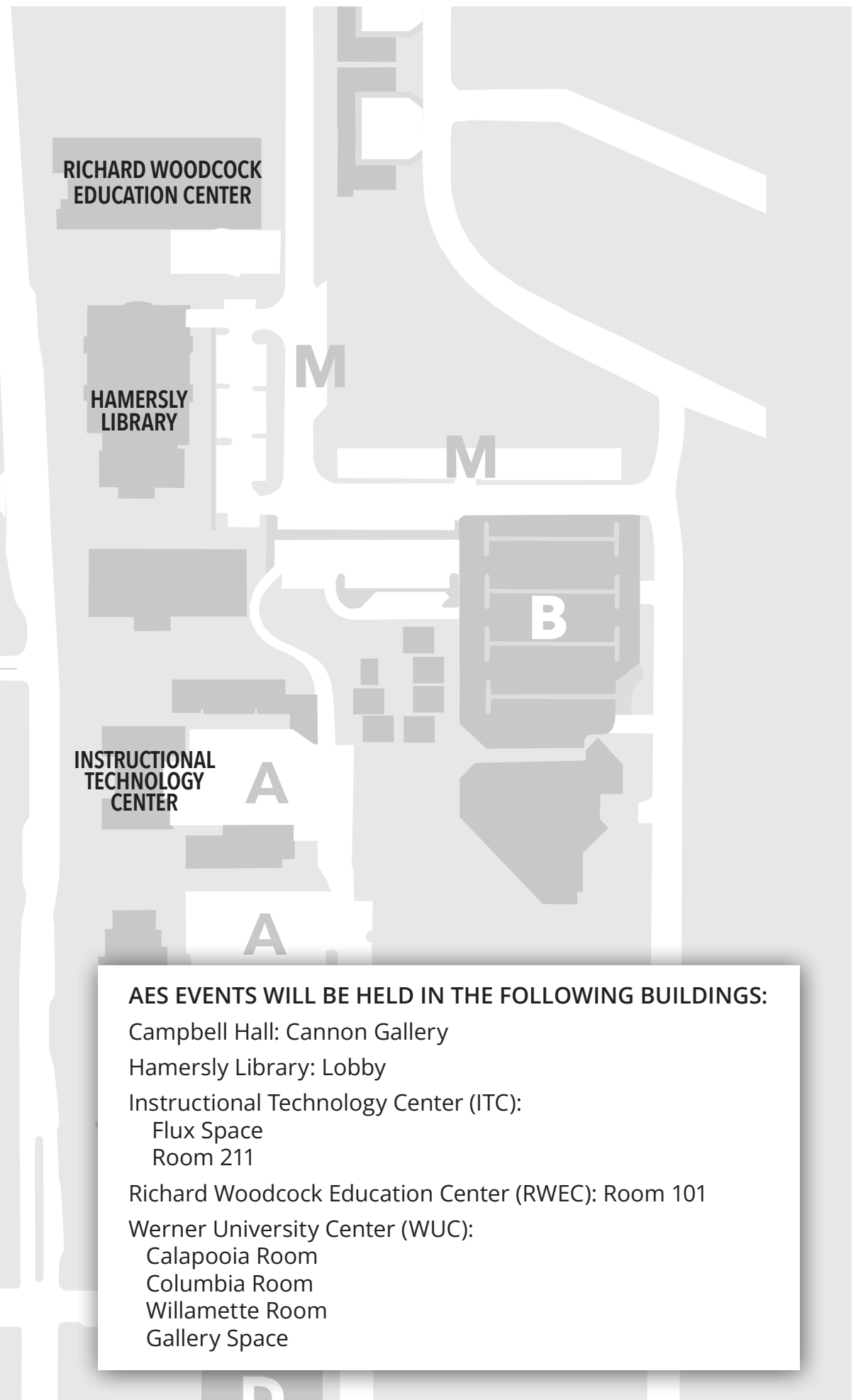
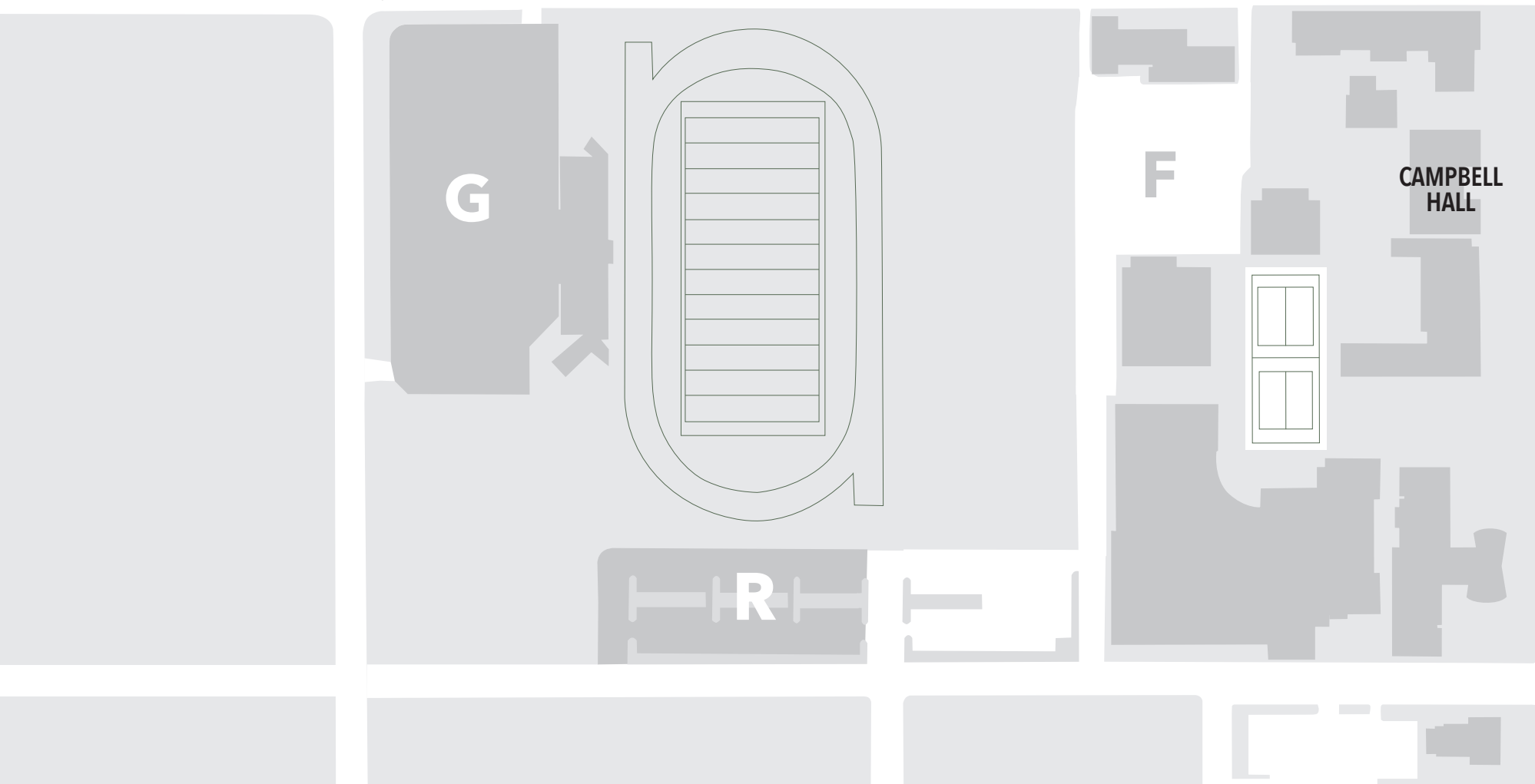
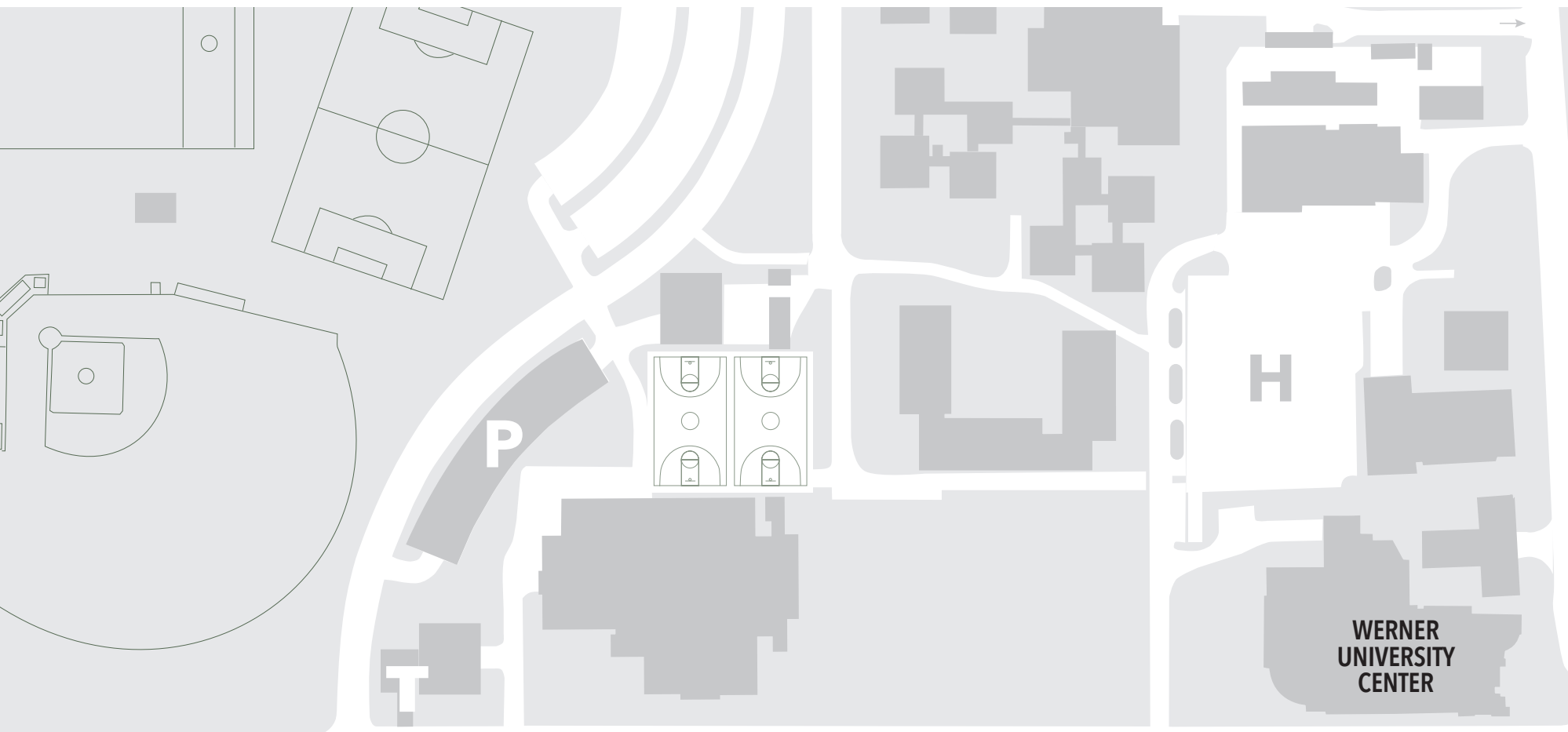
Title	Mentors	Presenters
Supporting Learners with Executive Functioning Needs	Lane, Danielle	schwisow, valarie
The Complexities of Identification for Special Education of English	Lane, Danielle	Pyne, Katie
Language Learners		
The Complexities of Identification for Special Education of English	Lane, Danielle	Pyne, Katie
Language Learners		
Using Sensory Support to Increase Regulation: Professional Development	Lane, Danielle	Taylor, Kiyoko
Supporting General Education Teachers in Curriculum Modification for	Lane, Danielle	Stacy, Jennifer
Students with Disabilities		
Supporting General Education Teachers in Curriculum Modification for	Stacy, Jennifer	Stacy, Jennifer
Students with Disabilities		
Trauma-Informed Teaching - The Correlations Between Special Education	Lane, Dani	Baruch, Amanda
and Poverty		
Making Meaningful Modifications: Supporting Students on a Modified	Lane, Danielle	D'Agostini-Walters, Miranda
Diploma Track		
Supporting Social Skills and Mental Health in Students with Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Ballard, Melody
From Standards to Participation: Inclusive PE and Extracurricular Sports in Action	Lane, Danielle	Bolnick, Kayla
Transitioning From Structured to Less Structured Learning Environments: Effects on Academic Success for Students With Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Gurule, Ashley
Evidence-Based Reading Interventions for Students with SLD	Lane, Danielle	Quirino, Elizabeth
Trauma-Informed Practices in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Brogan, Mark
Differentiation for Special Education Students in Gen Ed Classrooms	Lane, Danielle	Snyder, Megan
Building Successful Inclusive Classrooms Through Teacher Collaboration	Lane, Danielle	Gallegos, Naomi
How sensory overload affects behavior with students with autism.	Lane, Danielle	Morales Villafan, Kirsten
From Placement to Participation: The 80% Threshold	Lane, Danielle	Ulrich, Angela
Building Systems, Not Just Strategies: Improving Behavior, Instruction, and Staff Consistency in a Self-Contained Social-Emotional and Behavior Classroom	Lane, Danielle	Carrico, Sarah

Title	Mentors	Presenters
Trauma-Informed Care in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Ussery, Sarah
Expanding Unified Programs in Public Schools	Lane, Danielle	Salud, Carlie
Strengthening PBIS Implementation in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Hysell, Audrey
Reducing Restraint & Seclusion in Schools: Evidence for Proactive, Function-Based Alternatives	Lane, Danielle; Hopkins, Shari	Samuels, Brie
How Co-Teaching Partnerships between general education and special educators influence inclusion success	Lane, Danielle	Stone, Amber
Evidence-Based Practices for Students with Emotional Behavioral Disability	Lane, Danielle	Walker, Anna
Improving Classroom Practice Through Teacher and Paraprofessional Training	Lane, Danielle	Bower, Deana
Strengthening Collaboration Between Special Education and ELL Teachers to Support Multilingual Students with Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Lugo, Stephanie
The Specific Role of Communication in Positive Student Outcomes for Students Receiving Special Education Services with the Emotional and Behavioral Disorder Eligibility	Lane, Danielle	Gibbs, Blaine
The Importance of CBVI and cultivating effective curriculums	Lane, Danielle	McGee-Roan, Lauren
Bridging the Implementation Gap	Lane, Danielle	FiField, Christina
The Impact of Sign Language and AAC on Individuals with Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Ashby, Camden
Using Music to Enhance Academic and Social Skills in Students with Disabilities	Lane, Danielle	Estes, Miles
Overrepresentation of Minorities in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Hardesty, Tyler
Supporting Challenging Behavior Through Emotion Regulation in Students With Autism in Life Skills Classrooms	Lane, Danielle	Bach, Vu
Functional Communication Training (FCT) to Reduce Aggressive Behavior	Lane, Danielle	Carothers, Leah
Practical Strategies for Supporting Behavior and Inclusion in General Education Classrooms	Lane, Danielle	Claudio, Bianca
Developing Effective Sensory-Based Sleep Interventions for Preschoolers With ASD	Lane, Danielle	De Lara, Ana
Universal Design For Learning In General Education Classrooms: How Special Education Teachers Strengthen Inclusion	Lane, Danielle	Mulder, Leona
Para Power: Mastering the IEP for Student Success	Lane, Danielle	Riverstone, Stephen
Bridging the Implementation Gap	Lane, Danielle	FiField, Christina
Falling Through the Cracks	Lane, Danielle	McNamee, Constance
Structured Family Engagement and Student Outcomes in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Palacios, Marie

PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Title	Mentors	Presenters
Disrupting the Pipeline: Redesigning Support Timelines for Male Youth in Special Education	Lane, Danielle	Johnson, Maitel
“From the Shop to the Office: Swearing, Taboo, and Social Meaning Across Different Speech Communities”	Troyer, Rob	Pound, Rae
Short Story	Schmidt, Katherine	Dills, Allie
Heartbeat	Schmidt, Katherine	Loos, Richard
Genesis	Schmidt, Katherine	Gillooly, Peter
The Stories Signs Tell	Troyer, Rob	Hantzmon, Stephen
Datura	Plec, Emily	Minato, Lili
Our love is “God”: Fantasy Themes of Violence and Reclaiming Autonomy in Heathers (1988)	Plec, Emily	Powell, Tessa
To Scatter One’s Own: Settler-Colonialism and the Impact of Public Law 959 on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations.	Swedo, Elizabeth; Pelegrin-Taboada, Ricardo; Jensen, Kimberly	James, Tyler
To Scatter One's Own in the City of Angels: Relocation Policy and Lakota Tribes in Los Angeles	Pelegrin-Taboada, Ricardo; Jensen, Kimberly	James, Tyler
Internal Matter or a Cause for International Concern: How Human Rights Violations During the First Battle of Grozny Were Portrayed by International Organizations and the American Media	Swedo, Elizabeth; Doellinger, David; Goldsworthy-Bishop, Patricia	Worthy, Cooper
Socialist Paternalism: The Struggle for Gender Equality in Yugoslavia	Swedo, Elizabeth; Doellinger, David; Swedo, Elizabeth	Ritter, Jakob
An Oral History on Monmouth, Oregon	Swedo, Elizabeth; Jensen, Kimberly; Craig, Carter	Foster, Mervi
“Insufficient Sample of Clips and Gauges”: Russia’s War Industry from the Perspective of American Subcontractors	Swedo, Elizabeth; Doellinger, David; Goldsworthy-Bishop, Patricia	Hayes, Isaac
The Magna Carta and the Early Modern Period: Proportionality in Punishment	Swedo, Elizabeth; Swedo, Elizabeth; Pelegrin-Taboada, Ricardo	Grow, Hayden
Colonial Stains on the Unwritten Pages of the Future: Deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest and Caribbean Islands	Swedo, Elizabeth	Burk, Hannah
To Be Defective Is To Be Unamerican: Disability, Nativism, and Eugenics at Ellis Island, 1882-1924	Swedo, Elizabeth	Ihne, Caleb
The Link Between Evolving Ideology and AIDS in Latin America	Swedo, Elizabeth; Pelegrin-Taboada, Ricardo; Goldsworthy-Bishop, Patricia	Albrecht, Jackson

Title	Mentors	Presenters
Doctrinal Sin and Divergent Penance: The Church and Reproductive Restriction in the Early Middle Ages	Swedo, Elizabeth; Jensen, Kimberly	Borden, Jandika
Relationships Between the Static Forefoot Subsegments Posture And the Medial Longitudinal Angle	Athanasiadis, Dimitrios	Bodily, Creed
Do Latino/as Identify as White? How Demographic Category Options Affect Hispanic/Latino Psychology	Espino Perez, Kathy; Ibaraki, Alicia	Green, Valleja; Jimenez, Gabriela
Spotting Fake News; The Impact of Images on Perception	Espino Perez, Kathy	Johnson, Tyran
The Effect of Phone Notifications on College Students' Performance on a Math Test	Espino Perez, Kathy	Reed, Aidyn
Effects Of Positive Vs. Negative Feedback From A.I. On Performance Attributions	Espino Perez, Kathy	Esserman, Genna
Relationships Between Static Chopart Joint Posture and Measurements of the Medial Longitudinal and Transverse Arches	Athanasiadis, Dimitrios	Castaneda, Emilio
Effects of Civil War: Guatemalan Migration	Pelegrin-Taboada, Ricardo	Jimenez, Gabriela
Improving Healthcare Provider Knowledge & Confidence of Hepatitis C Treatment in Linn County	Middleton, Andrew	Biller, Ashley; Armfield, Jessica
Heat-Related Kidney Dysfunction in U.S. Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers	Vala-Haynes, Emily	Frey, Hana
Testing the Efficacy of NDVI enhanced sUAS Imagery for Identification of Invasive Plant Species in the Luckiamute Watershed	Szpakowski, David	Pierce, Lua; Pease, Kira
Exploring Post-Fire Vegetation Growth for the Beachie Creek Wildfire	Szpakowski, David	Hagel, Macy
Seeking Higher Ground: How Native Raptors in the Pacific Northwest Utilize Man-Made T-perches	Dawson, Jim; Dawson, Amy	Weathers, Adrien
Impacts of Selective Logging as a Habitat Restoration Tool on Invertebrate Communities in an Oak (Quercus garryana) Woodland	Hopkins, Gareth; Howard, Ava	Herb, Ella
Examining Associations Between Herpetofauna and Environmental Factors within an Oregon White Oak (Quercus garryana) Ecosystem	Hopkins, Gareth	Smith, Jordan
Impacts of Deicing Salts on the Growth and Physiology of Brandywine Tomatoes: An Ongoing Study	Howard, Ava	Hill, Gracie
Seeking Higher Ground: How Native Raptors in the Pacific Northwest Utilize Man-Made T-Perches	Dawson, Jim; Dawson, Amy	Weathers, Adrien
Dopamine Drugs' Effectiveness in Treating Parkinson's Disease	Flatt, Patricia	Garten, Annika
Convergence Values of Some Tangent Inverse Series	Beaver, Cheryl	Hantzmon, Stephen
Exploring Characteristics of Acorn Production in Oregon White Oaks Across Habitat and Over Seven Years	Howard, Ava; Hopkins, Gareth	Downin, Dian



AES EVENTS WILL BE HELD IN THE FOLLOWING BUILDINGS:

- Campbell Hall: Cannon Gallery
- Hamersly Library: Lobby
- Instructional Technology Center (ITC):
 - Flux Space
 - Room 211
- Richard Woodcock Education Center (RWEC): Room 101
- Werner University Center (WUC):
 - Calapooia Room
 - Columbia Room
 - Willamette Room
 - Gallery Space



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