

AU Student Research Symposium
April 24, 2026 @ UBH

All sessions take place in UBH	Presenter(s)	Title
Session 1: 8-9:15am Moderator: Zach Bishop	Jillian VanTuyle	Only Parents: An Interpretative phemonological analysis of highly educated single mothers by choice as parents in K-12 Public Schools
	Kimberly Leslie	Dickinson’s Linguistic Deconstruction of Christianity
	Natasha LeClercq	Green Settler-Colonialism in Historic Palestine: Leveling the Landscape and the Palestinian Exodus
	Christine Ricci, Rachel Groff, Jacqueline Jaramillo	Organizing the George Williams College Archival Collection
Session 2: 9:20-10:35 Moderator: John McCormack	Timothy Wortman	Framing Neurodivergence
	Lauren Deane	A Qualitative Phenomenological Study on how students perceive engagement and success in online learning environments.
	Emma Jasutis, Mackenzie Bradley, Isabella Cummins	Linking Soil Chemical and Physical Properties to Microbial Growth: A Comparative Analysis of Forest, Garden, and Prairie Soils
Session 3: 10:40-11:55 Moderator: Brandon Kooi	John Bryk	A Constructivist grounded theory study of the attitudes and beliefs of K-12 unit school district teachers and administrators about the effectiveness of classroom walkthroughs
	Maria Moreno-Young	Let the Children Learn: An Ethnographic Case Study Examining the Impact of Dialogue on Multilingual Learners
	Kathryn Dengler	An Examination of Perceived Leadership Effectiveness and Student Achievement in K-8 Suburban Illinois Public Schools
	Allison Perez, Halima Ali, Lesby Ortega, Yoselin Escalona	Police Social Workers' Perspectives on Kane County Collaborative Diversion
Session 4 (Virtual): 10:40-11:55 https://aurora.zoom.us/j/91970049298 Moderator: Caleb Lewis	Rochelle Nyberg	An examination of the impact of an innovative reading intervention model on reading outcomes of sixth- and seventh-grade students in a rural Utah district
	Weston Woven	Students’ and staff perspectives of dropout prevention programs in a large midwestern school district with a focus on self-efficacy
	Lindsay Schloemer	Student-Teacher Relationships and Academic Motivation: A Convergent Mixed Methods Study on the Long-Term Impact of Classroom Goal Structures and Teacher Practices

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<p>Session 5 (Virtual): 10:40-11:55</p> <p>https://aurora.zoom.us/j/8473633226</p> <p>Moderator: Faith Agostinone</p>	Julie Scott	An examination of administrative team trust and cohesion and their association with school culture in Illinois public middle schools
	Dr. Tunisha Rockymore	Code of Silence: A critical interpretive phenomenological analysis of the perceived factors that impact advancement opportunities for Black women in corporate America
	Lawanna McCoy	The Second-year experiences of faculty: The impact of psychological empowerment and instructional coaching and mentoring on faculty
	Charles Stegall	A Phenomenological Study of the Role Athletic Coaches Play as Mentors In Developing and Fostering Resiliency of Rural Public High School Athletes Identified as At-Risk
<p>Poster Session 12-1:15</p>	Logan Chavanne	Development and Evaluation of a Plasmid-Based DNA Fingerprinting Model for Introductory Biology Education
	Meredith Milz, Finley Garza, Dejhanayra Argueta, Ayele, Teko Abgo	Reducing Global Maternal Mortality Rates
	Martha Alba, Neida Arreola, and Daria Andrew	Isolation and Characterization of Antibiotic-Producing Bacteria from Backyard Urban Soils
	Alexandra Pope	A Literature Review Exploring How Digital Sexual Education, Compared to Standard Sexual Education, Affects Sexual Behaviors in Adolescents
	Jacob Sidenbender, Andy Salazar	Quantification of Heavy Metals in Granny Smith Apples
	Angela Garcia-Guerrero, Allison Hojek, Nathan Kalonji	Using Advanced Technologies to Document the Progress Being Made on Environmental Restoration and Park Improvement Projects
	Elysa Chan, Jaelyn Peralta, Donna Rubieles, Maria Escalante, Grace Leonard	The Application of Slime Substances as Conforming Cold Packs for Diverse Medical Treatments
	Tiffanie Calderon and Marianne Alexopoulos	Temperature Effects on Polymer Structure: An Analysis of Slime's Mechanical Properties
	Cameron Johnson, Noah Kosmicki, Clare Strong	Acute and Chronic Effects of Cold Water Immersion vs Heat Therapy on Recovery in Collegiate Short-Distance Sprinters: A Proposal
	Logan Fenoglio, Katelyn Ruse, Moises Hernandez	Muscle Asymmetry and the Influence on Injury Incidence in Collegiate Athletes: A Proposal
	Lotzy Munoz	Aromatherapy and Slime: Analyzing the Effect of Essential Oils on the Stretchiness and Consistency of Slime

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Session 6: 1:20-2:30 Moderator: Chris Pykett	Zachary Klug, Allison Masters, Stephanie Ramos	Understanding Lung Cancer, the Leading Cause of Cancer Related Deaths: Its Types, Symptoms and Causes
	Diane Fuentes, Elysa Chan, Jaclyn Peralta	Investigating OG1RF_10659 Expression in Enterococcus faecalis Biofilm Formation During Exposure to Five Antimicrobial Compounds
	Cristian Cazares, Jeremy Salerno, Hlawn Tlang	Lung Cancer Epidemiological Trends, Risk Factors, Social Determinants of Health, Health-related Disparities, and Public Health Prevention Programs
	Samantha Stoedter	Field of Memories: The Evolving Legacy of Shoeless Joe Jackson
	Liliana Campos and Mileyka Ledezma	Fresh Vegetables to Support Students at Aurora University from the Greenhouse.
Session 7: 2:35-3:35 Moderator: Chris Pykett	Ainsley Martin	Beyond Barbed Wire: The Legacy of Japanese American Internment
	Sarah Aljamal, Xarely Chavez, Aracely Hernandez	Targeted Hope: Understanding Lung Cancer Staging and Comparing Standardized Treatment with the New Targeted Therapy Options
	Jaclyn Peralta, Diane Fuentes, Daniela Matias, Aileen Rodriguez	Assessment of Type 2 Diabetes Associated Risk Factors, Healthcare Related Behaviors and Awareness in the Chicagoland Area
	Madeline Bogdan, Diane Fuentes, Devin Jagodzinski, Daniela Matias, Jaclyn Peralta, Aileen Rodriguez, Evan Rodriguez	Effects of a Diabetic Cell Culture Condition on Human Keratinocyte Cell Migration and Inflammatory Cytokine Gene Expression, With and Without Exposure to Bacterial Peptidoglycans and Lipopolysaccharides.
	Zachary Craft	An examination of the effects of branding practices on parent trust within Illinois K-12 public districts
Poster Session 3:40-5	Kate Wallin	Impact of Aromatherapy on Patient Outcomes in Hospitalized Patients
	Kiersten Dernulc	The Role of Social Connection in Predicting Veterans' Well-being
	Stephanie Ortiz, Litzy Torres, Grace Platt, Zubia Kamran, Alyssa Piemonte	Partisanship or Policy: Do Voters' Opinions of a Policy Depend on Which Candidate They Think Supports It?
	McKenzie Perry and Mileyka Ledezma	AI-Powered Support for Chemistry Lab Equipment and Instrumentation
	Stephen De Chaud, Rylee Johnson, Samira Schmidt	Traditional vs. undulating periodization: a direct comparison between the effects of variance and continuity in volume and intensity over the course of a one-year macrocycle on strength and hypertrophy in 18–25-year-old trained individuals: A Proposal
	Fatima Hernandez-Trinidad; Mariana Villagomez; Salma Frausto	"Andy Aurora": How a City Mascot Influences Identity
	Brian Nasr, Logan Chavanne, David Peters	Isolation and Characterization of Antibiotic-Producing Bacteria from Illinois Soil

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Giselle Mora	Leafy Prairie Clover
Quincy Visor. Daniela Salazar. Joey Giesen	Unilateral vs. Bilateral exercise efficiency on injury prevention in sports
Elysa Chan, Emily Dillow, Kennedy Keaton	Assessing the Prevalence of Tetracycline-resistant Bacteria in Prairie, Garden, and Forest Soil Ecosystems
Jakob Sliczniak, Diana Rosario	Gene Expression and Biofilm Formation in Enterococcus faecalis Under Stress of Antimicrobial Compounds
Alexa Martinez, Martha Alba	Effect of Additives on the Physical Properties of Slime
Audrey Esquivel	In Pediatric-Oncology Patients Undergoing Cancer Treatment, How Do Nurse-Led Coping Interventions Compared to Standard Care Without Structured Coping Interventions Improve Well-Being During Treatment?
Ben Omernik, Edrick Contreras, Ariana Garcia	A Comparison of Dry Sauna and Cold-Water Immersion on Performance and Soreness in Trained Male Soccer Players: A Proposal