

# **Tulane Professors Awarded NSF Grant to Establish New REU Site**

November 4th, 2025

|

Aidan Feulner

[View PDF](#)



Tulane University is proud to announce that Professors Noshir Pesika and Claiborne Christian from the School of Science and Engineering have been awarded a \$364,263 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF). This grant will be used to establish a new Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site at Tulane.

The REU program is designed to support active research participation by undergraduate students in areas funded by the NSF. The program offers two main pathways: REU Sites and REU Supplements. REU Sites are dedicated projects that engage multiple students in research, either within a single discipline or across interdisciplinary themes. In addition to REU Sites, the program also includes REU Supplements, which can be integrated into new or ongoing NSF-funded research projects.

What makes this grant particularly unique is its focus on combining research and innovation—two elements that are not often paired in traditional academic settings. This approach not only enhances the educational experience for students but also encourages them to think creatively and develop innovative solutions to real-world problems.

The new REU Site at Tulane will provide undergraduate students with the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research projects, preparing them for future careers in science and engineering. This initiative aligns with Tulane's commitment to fostering academic excellence and innovation. "Cutting edge discovery and innovation are SSE's two great strengths. Pesika and Christian are bringing these elements together for undergraduate participants in one of a kind REU site. I am sure that this REU site will be a model for other institutions to follow," states Dean Hridesh Rajan.

Participation in the REU program is open to U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents. While the NSF does not directly select students for these opportunities, investigators who receive REU awards establish their own application and selection processes. Students interested in these opportunities can find a directory of active REU Sites on the NSF website.

This award highlights the dedication of Professors Pesika and Christian to advancing research opportunities for undergraduates at Tulane. For more information on how to apply, students are encouraged to visit the NSF's REU program page or contact the Tulane School of Science and Engineering for guidance.

Read more on NSF's site: <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/reu-research-experiences-undergraduates>.