



## ***Call for Abstracts***

**From Concepts to Skills: Integrating Undergraduate Research and Student Engagement into our Learning and Teaching**  
**Camrose, Alberta, Canada**  
**May 3-5, 2017**

**Deadline for abstract submission: December 15, 2016**

ACURIT (Augustana Conference on Undergraduate Research and Innovative Teaching) and AIBA (Alberta Introductory Biology Association) Joint Conference

We are excited to be hosting this joint meeting to showcase innovative teaching and undergraduate research. [ACURIT](#) and [AIBA](#) are complementary in focus:

- ACURIT is a two-day international conference for students and professors that showcases undergraduate research and teaching strategies.
- AIBA is a committed group of Alberta biology educators who work together to promote the best educational experience for aspiring biologists. The group meets once a year for a one day conference discussing different aspects of teaching and learning.

The theme of the 2017 meeting, From Concepts to Skills, considers how we can design engaged educational experiences to promote deep learning and the development of transferable skills. The joint conference will specifically consider how instructors may use content to facilitate the acquisition of skills in students by creating active learning opportunities in our courses.

Proposals for papers and workshops from faculty and undergraduate students are invited on any topic related to the conference theme; for example:

- How do teachers scaffold undergraduate research experiences into typical courses?
- How do learners develop academic skills in lecture and lab-based courses?
- What practices encourage student engagement?
- How do students apply their skills to independent research?

**Keynote speaker:** Dr. Maryellen Weimer - Dr. Weimer is professor emerita of teaching and learning at Pennsylvania State University where she received the Milton S. Eisenhower award for distinguished teaching. She earned her PhD in Speech Communication and was Associate

Director of the National Center on Postsecondary Teaching, Learning and Assessment for the US Dept of Education. Dr. Weimer regularly gives keynotes and workshops throughout Canada and the US but is best known as editor-at-large of *The Teaching Professor* which she helped to establish in 1987. Her many publications include “Learner-Centered Teaching: Five Key Changes to Practice”, “Inspired College Teaching: A Career-Long Resource for Professional Growth”, and “Enhancing Scholarly Work on Teaching and Learning: Professional Literature that Makes a Difference”.

**When:** All participants are welcome to attend the entire joint conference May 3-5, 2017.

- AIBA – May 3
- Joint conference keynote presentation - Afternoon of May 3
- ACURIT – May 4-5

**Where:** Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta in Camrose, Alberta, Canada.

<http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/>

### **Categories of Presentations:**

1. **Teaching Workshops** – We invite participants to submit an abstract to present a teaching workshop during the joint conference. The workshops are 60 minutes in length.
2. **Undergraduate Research Presentations** – We encourage undergraduate students to share their research findings - research from all disciplines is encouraged. Presentations are 15 minutes in length with an additional 5 minutes for questions.
3. **Teaching Presentations** – Teaching faculty are invited to share best practices and original pedagogical research related to active learning, or different teaching related subjects. The presentations are assigned 30 minutes time slots to allow time for discussion.

**Abstract instructions:** Maximum of 250 words in a single paragraph outlining the topic of your presentation or workshop. As this is an interdisciplinary conference, abstracts should be written in non-specialized language and for a general audience.

If proposing a workshop, indicate what activities the participants will participate in.

Be sure to list all co-authors and their affiliations in your submission. Students and faculty are encouraged to combine or coordinate their presentations.

Complete the Abstract Submission Form available on the ACURIT webpage (<http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/ACURIT/>) by **December 15, 2016**. Abstracts will be considered after this date and a member of the planning committee will contact you with our decision by mid-January 2017.