

Faculty Member Contact Information

Name: **Richard L. Essner, Jr.**
Department: **Biological Sciences**
E-mail Address: **ressner@siue.edu**

Description of the URCA Assistant Position(s)

Number of students requested: **2**
Number of students to receive funding: **0 (This will be an unfunded position.)**
Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit? Yes **X** No If yes, in which course? **BIOL 493**
Location of research/creative activities: **SL 3209 (laboratory)**

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity:

Project involves population and community ecology of small mammals on the SIUE campus.

Brief description of student responsibilities:

The student will assist with live-trapping small mammals at 100 research plots in two forest patches on the SIUE campus. The student will be expected to gather data from captured individuals including: mass, sex, age, and reproductive status. Data will also be used as part of a larger study examining species/habitat relationships. The student will be expected to provide assistance with data analysis and manuscript preparation, as well as presentation of results at a scientific meeting.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

The objective is to give the student hands-on experience with data collection and analysis. The student will also gain experience in creating a poster for presentation at a scientific meeting, as well as manuscript preparation.

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours), please indicate all required days and times:

Student and I will coordinate to determine suitable research times.

If the location of the research/creative activities is off campus, must students provide their own transportation?
N/A

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:
BIOL 120 (minimum grade of B)

Other requirements:
None

Notes to applicants (i.e., any other information you'd like applicants to know about you or the position before applying):
Student will need to complete on-line animal care and use training.