

Expanding Campus Peer-to-Peer Teaching & Learning: The Peer Scholars Program

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Overview

The increasing demand for training opportunities in core and advanced research and technological skills is a common challenge shared by many academic libraries today. In response to this challenge, the NC State University Libraries has collaborated with campus partners to:

1. **Scale library instruction** to meet increased demands, especially in emerging fields.
2. Tap into **graduate student and postdoctoral researcher expertise** on campus.
3. Create a community of practice for **peer-to-peer teaching and learning**.

Finding Campus Expertise

The Peer Scholars Program works with campus partners like the Graduate School, Postdoctoral Association, Graduate Student Association, and the Graduate Writing Center, to recruit graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to develop and present library workshops based on their expertise. These peer instructors bring an array of research, social, and technical skill sets with them to the program, including strategies for communicating research, digital portfolio development, and data science skills.



Implementation

- Recruit graduate student & postdoctoral researcher instructors
- Librarians work with peer instructors to develop and practice interactive workshop content
- Schedule & publicize programming with campus partners & in campus event registration systems
- Target audience: undergraduate & graduate students, faculty, researchers



Dr. Kurt Schaub teaching "LaTeXPrimer"

Incentivizing Participation

- Opportunity to gain teaching experience and improve communication skills
- Peer-to-peer learning and collaboration
- Paid stipend (\$150-\$300) for each workshop presented
- Build skills with classroom technologies and high-tech spaces in the library

Outcomes & Feedback

The Peer Scholars Program has been an enormous success for the Libraries, with **twenty-seven workshops and over 350 attendees** in the 2018-19 academic year alone. In addition to giving graduate students and postdocs a professional teaching experience, the program has widened the range of workshops available to all library patrons. Feedback on the program has been generally good, with instructors responding well to constructive feedback and adjusting their teaching style or course content as needed.

Next Steps

- Assess program and campus outreach
- Expand the number and variety of Peer Scholars offerings
- Explore badging or certification opportunities

For more information about the Peer Scholars Program, visit go.ncsu.edu/peerscholars or scan the QR code below:

