

RELATING THE SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM TO THE BUSH GRANT'S GOALS

Relevant Goals:

1. In what ways have we achieved better understanding of student-teacher relationships and their significance to learning?
3. In what ways have we explored and applied familiar and unfamiliar enhancements of the teacher-student relationship?

Response:

The Augustana Symposium program addresses several facets of the current Bush Grant; however, the mission of the Symposium seems to overlap with the goals of the Bush Grant most significantly in the area of exploring and cultivating the student-teacher relationship (viz., goals 1 and 3).

The mission of the Augustana Symposium is to foster a vibrant intellectual culture in our community. The Symposium pursues this goal through the following means: 1) encouraging independent student research; 2) facilitating relationships of collaboration and mentoring between student researchers and faculty members; and 3) generating opportunities to connect scholarship with campus life outside the classroom, as well as with the larger academic and professional communities.

The Symposium itself is a kind of showcase intended to publicize, celebrate, and develop the culture of student research that exists at Augustana. The activity that makes the Symposium work—and toward the cultivation of which the Symposium is itself directed—is the collaborative research done by students and their faculty mentors throughout the year. It is the hope of the Symposium committee that having a campus-wide showcase in which to disseminate and receive feedback on their work will afford an extra incentive to develop a collaborative research program. To date, we have not had the resources to implement the secondary phases of the Symposium program that would directly assist students and faculty members in working together on their research (e.g., workshops on using library resources, public speaking, finding other venues for presenting student research, collaborating with students to develop their research in disciplines where collaborative research is uncommon). However, these sorts of endeavors are still on the committee's "wish list."