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## Press Release

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Spring 2017 Rock Stars Undergraduate Research Symposium scheduled**

(Janesville, Wis.) The University of Wisconsin-Rock County Spring 2017 Rock Stars Undergraduate Research Symposium, a showcase of student research, creativity and performance, will be held on Wednesday, April 26 from noon until 1 p.m. in Andrews 131 on campus.

This semester, the UW-Rock County Spring 2017 Rock Stars Undergraduate Research Symposium includes (but is not limited to) the following presentations:

- **Allison Rollette** of **Janesville** presents “Impacts of Agriculture and Population on the Lower Rock River Basin”
  - An overview of the impacts of agriculture and population on the Lower Rock River Basin: the struggles and successes of our local watershed as it pertains to wildlife, loss of natural habitat, water quality, and our society.
- **Jeremiah Seel** of **Janesville** presents “The SEAL Project”
  - The goal of the SEAL project is to find a metal oxide material that is cheap, stable, non-toxic and efficient at converting sunlight into hydrogen fuel. Successful materials are effective light-absorbers and good catalysts for the water oxidation reaction. Energy from sunlight will be absorbed by the metal oxide material, and then using that energy, the material will split water into oxygen gas, protons and electrons. At the counter electrode, the protons and electrons will recombine to form hydrogen gas, which is the desired fuel product. At UW-Rock County, a variety of mixed metals have been created and measured, and data shared with the national group coordinating this effort.

The first undergraduate research symposium was held at UW-Rock County during fall semester of 2016. Faculty members are now encouraged at the onset of every semester to encourage student participation in undergraduate research and to nominate exceptional student work. Students chosen to present at the symposium then become eligible to present their work at the UW System's annual Research in the Rotunda event held each April in Madison.

For more information about this event, contact Professor of Biological Sciences Tom Klubertanz at 608.758.6565 x722 or [tom.h.klubertanz@uwc.edu](mailto:tom.h.klubertanz@uwc.edu). For more information about UW-Rock County, visit [rock.uwc.edu](http://rock.uwc.edu).

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