

**Merry-Go-Round Research Talks:
Rotating TED-Style Talks Across Programs**

Wednesday April 1st 2026, 3-5pm West Gate Social

Part of Research & Scholarship Days 2026

About the Event

As part of Research & Scholarship Days, we invite undergraduate students across all programs to take the stage for an evening of short 5-minute TED-style research talks. Featuring an exciting rotating lineup of digestible topics that range from arts to sciences to humanities to business, students who participate (or spectate) the Merry-Go-Round will be exposed to a wide range of new and diverse ideas. This drop-in event celebrates curiosity, creativity, and the power of sharing ideas across disciplines in ways that are accessible, inspiring, and community-building!

Speakers will present their research—or a research question they are passionate about—to a broad audience of students, faculty, and staff. Talks should focus on the big idea, why it matters, and what excites you about it, rather than technical details. Come represent your program on the Merry-Go-Round as participants vie for 500 dollars' worth of prizes!

No prior presentation experience required—just a great idea and a willingness to share it.

Format & Eligibility

This event is open to undergraduate students from all disciplines. All stages of research are welcome, including proposed, ongoing, or completed work. Presentations are individual only (no group talks).

Talks will be 5 minutes in length and delivered in a TED-style format—story-driven, engaging, and accessible to a general audience. Presenters will use one presentation slide, which should be visually focused rather than text-heavy. Plain language is strongly encouraged, and discipline-specific jargon should be explained clearly when unavoidable. This event is inspired by TED talks but is not affiliated with TED.

How to Apply

Students must submit 1) A talk title, and 2) A short abstract (maximum 250 words) describing the core idea of the talk, why the topic matters, and what the audience will take away.

Abstracts must be submitted by **March 10, 2026**, using the [Abstract Submission](#) Google Form. The event is restricted to 20 speakers so submit early. To ensure the event runs smoothly Speakers must submit their single presentation slide as either PDF, pptx, or Canva by **March 26, 2026** on using the [TED Style Slide Submission](#) form.

Prizes (\$500)

- Audience Choice awards (voted on during the event)
- Best Talk Award (selected by a panel)

Prizes will be announced at the end of the evening