



# Maureen Budka

"As a proud West Virginia University student, I am reminded of the Mountaineer values of exploration, curiosity, and "going first" every time I see images of mountains. While the bright colors and painterly brushstrokes used in my original painting do not look exactly like the mountains we see surrounding our campus, I think this cover still captures the spirit of this university and the bright-minded undergraduate researchers who go here."





"Research is a creative undertaking; one that much reminds me of art. It is the pursuit of discovery and the hope for answers. To me, this painting encapsulates the spirit of research. The rodents depicted are reminiscent of the classic test subject,, which they eventually overcome and control. The perplexing twisting mass being tamed is similar to the way one must make sense of and own the direction of research. The yellow butterflies instill a lingering sense of hope; and hope drives art as well as research."



"Undergraduate Research is the result of the wisdom and hard work of our school students. I arranged Undergraduate Research into a circle to give the impression of a black hole, and the white dots around it symbolize the students who work hard for it. Even if the road ahead is dangerous, the students bravely move forward and use the knowledge they have learned to build the road to their flight. When they are scattered, there are stars in the sky, and when they are gathered, there is a beam of light, moving towards the same goal. I think that science and human exploration is endless, always maintaining curiosity and longing for unknown things, to find answers and this is the broader context of my artwork."

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Chen







Muriithi - David Kem

## Inquiry

"Inquiry is an attempt at visually composing the ideals supporting undergraduate research. The piece illustrates individuals undertaking the investigation of an ambiguous scientific endeavor (the means and end to their investigations are left to the imagination of the viewer). In representing engaged and active individuals, Inquiry is attempting to elucidate the core understanding of a discipline in the form of a practice that is aimed at the contribution something meaningful to our world."