The Global Forum on Urban and Regional Development, Hollins University and Roanoke College sponsored three undergraduate research labs which supported seventeen undergraduate research students. The students worked on three projects:

- Refugee populations of Roanoke: Issues of Assimilation and Adaptation, and
- Two labs associated with Virginia Tech/Roanoke Innovation Corridor project;
  - Development Policies and Strategies for the Innovation Corridor,
  - Physical Integration of the Innovation Corridor in the city setting.

The students presented their research at the 2017 Undergraduate Research Poster Session sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research at Virginia Tech.