

2023 Distinguished Mentor of the Year Winner

Faculty who serve as model mentors to their undergraduate research students are eligible to receive the Distinguished Mentor of the Year: Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Inquiry award. Each year, one university-wide award will be given based on the undergraduate research engagement in the previous year. The Distinguished Mentor of the Year will be recognized with a \$2,500 award at the annual Honors Convocation.

Dr. Maré Cudic

Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

Dr. Cudic's research interests are in the area of glycosciences. She feels fortunate to share her passion and knowledge of this field with FAU's students through her teaching and research activities. Since joining FAU in 2014, Dr. Cudic mentored and trained thirty-three undergraduate students majoring in chemistry, biology, neuroscience, and exercise science through the Direct Independent Study/Research (DIS/DIR) program in Chemistry. She also mentored six undergraduate students enrolled in the Honors in Chemistry program. Her students present their research results at the local, regional, national, and international conferences and have received numerous awards and recognitions from the scientific community. Under her guidance, thirteen undergraduate students (some have been awarded more than once) received the Undergraduate Research Grant, and four undergraduates were awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF). Most impressively, ten undergraduate students are first author or co-authors, and some of them on more than one paper, in high impact journals such as the *Proceeding of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* (PNAS), *Biochemistry*, *ACS Chemical Neuroscience* (ACS Chem. Neurosci.), and *Journal of Organic Chemistry* (JOC). The advanced and well-designed training in her lab at the interface of chemistry and biology and co-authorship on publications resulted in prestigious internships (e.g., Scripps FL), graduate school admissions (e.g., MIT, University of Houston), medical (Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine) and nursing schools (Kaiser University, School of Nursing), jobs in government office (e.g., Palm Beach County - Office of Public Health Preparedness), and industry (GENEWIZ, A Brooks Life Sciences Company).

Dr. Cudic is very proud of all of her students and their achievements, and she considers their success as one of her greatest accomplishments as a FAU professor.