about the program
Research is an important part of the undergraduate experience. Students engage in enriching research experiences that allow them to explore their intended majors, develop relationships with faculty in their field, and cultivate critical thinking skills. Students admitted to the Research Rookies program will be paired with a faculty member in their field of interest for an innovative research experience.

benefits
- $2,000 stipend each semester ($4,000 per year)
- Research projects in state-of-the-art laboratories with faculty mentors
- Travel opportunities to present research at state and national conferences
- Opportunities to prepare for graduate school and the application process
- Opportunities for professional development and personal growth
- Opportunities to network with professors and professionals nationally
- Opportunities to collaborate on multi-lab research projects

qualifications
- US Citizen or permanent resident
- Maintain full-time enrollment in an approved STEM major
- Maintain a 3.0 GPA
- Demonstrated intent in pursuing research experiences and/or post graduate studies in a STEM field
- Freshman or sophomore student
- Be admitted to WVSU

participation commitments
- Actively engage in a research project with faculty mentor during academic year
- Submit a research progress report to faculty mentor at the end of each semester
- Engage in 10 hours of research each week, and record these hours on a time sheet to be submitted once a month
- Present research poster at the annual College of Natural Science and Mathematics Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Attend two professional development seminars

application process
To be considered for this award applicants must submit:
- Research Rookie application (available online or per request to director of CASTEM)
- Letter of interest
- Letter of recommendation from a counselor, teacher or NSM faculty