

Srisharan Shreedharan

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**2026 Peak Undergraduate Research
Mentor of the Year Award Nominee**

**College of Agriculture & Applied
Sciences | Geosciences (GEO)**



Dr. Srisharan (Sharan) Shreedharan is an earthquake physicist whose undergraduate mentoring has become a defining feature of his research program at Utah State University. Since establishing the USU Rock Deformation and Earthquake Mechanics (RDEM) Laboratory, he has integrated undergraduates directly into the core of his group's scientific work. Each year, Dr. Shreedharan provides research training to multiple undergraduates who participate in laboratory earthquake experiments, data acquisition, microstructural analysis, and computational workflows. His students engage with advanced shear apparatus instrumentation uncommon in undergraduate settings and gain experience working at the interface of physics, engineering, and geoscience. His mentorship model emphasizes early inclusion, structured skill building, and sustained research engagement. Under his guidance, undergraduates regularly contribute data to graduate theses, conference abstracts, and collaborative manuscripts, helping them develop scientific communication skills and professional visibility. Dr. Shreedharan's approach cultivates technical independence, confidence, and a

strong sense of belonging in research. Through regular meetings, individualized guidance, and integration into a collaborative lab culture, he equips students with interdisciplinary competencies that position them competitively for graduate programs and research careers. His commitment to providing rigorous, high impact research experiences reflects his broader dedication to developing the next generation of Earth scientists.