

# National Undergraduate Research Telescope (NURT)

**PROBLEM:** Decreasing general access to small/med telescopes  
Most small telescopes are aging  
Aperture-Nights is an incomplete metric  
(16 nights on 2-m vs. 1 night on 8-m)

**EDUCATION** Undergrads - Observing at a Nat'l Obs'y can be a defining experience

- Responsibility in situation where it matters
- Informal interactions - being taken seriously by grown-ups

Grad Students More nights at a telescope makes better astronomers



PROPOSAL • New 2-3 m telescope at Kitt Peak  
operated by NOAO (or NOAO/consortium)  
100% of time available

- Some T.P. (or % time) to encourage projects that involve undergrads
- Simple instrumentation — imaging only  
CCD mosaic, perhaps IR also

## STRAW-PERSON TELESCOPE

2.5 m  $f/6.5$  (Alt-Az?)

4K x 4K CCD mosaic, 24  $\mu$  pix  
 $\Rightarrow$  20' x 20' field @ 0.3"/pixel

IR?

Cost? \$5M  $\pm$