

Wisconsin MRSEC teaches Improv for Science Communication for the Materials Research Society

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Over 90 people attending the 2017 Materials Research Society (MRS) Fall meeting practiced their science communication skills during two interactive, improv-based workshops presented by the Wisconsin MRSEC. The workshops were based upon the highly successful *Improv to Improve Science Communication and Teaching* course for graduate students that Wisconsin MRSEC members co-developed with a Madison theater company and teach at UW-Madison. Two attendees who were hired by MRS to blog about the meeting described the workshops as “highly interactive”, “very useful”, and “incredible”. The workshops were designed to help MRS members practice communication skills, interact with audiences, and collaboratively develop an elevator pitch for their own research projects. The workshop can be adapted to various time constraints, workshop objectives, and numbers of attendees and has been presented over a dozen times at UW-Madison.



Anne Lynn Gillian-Daniel leads an improv-based workshop at the Materials Research Society meeting for over 90 attendees (top). UW faculty practice their improv skills in a workshop for science communication (bottom).