

Reaching Underserved Communities with Materials Science Outreach through Partnership

Shelly Grandell, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Jerrod Buckner and Felipe Gomez, Morgridge Institute for Research

The Wisconsin MRSEC has partnered with the Morgridge Institute for Research to bring scientific outreach to underserved communities.

Afterschool programs, especially programs that serve economically disadvantaged students, can face major barriers to bringing students to campus for STEM outreach activities. To increase access, the Morgridge Institute has created Afterschool Expeditions, a program that brings UW-Madison research-inspired STEM outreach to students in their programs instead asking them to come to campus.

Through Afterschool Expeditions, MRSEC Inclusive Education and Outreach Assistant Director, Shelly Grandell led research-inspired outreach activities with students and their families at 5 afterschool programs. She reached 52 students, 60% of whom were female and 92% were from underrepresented groups in STEM.



Students at MRSEC-led after school events engaged in a variety of materials science activities (left – static electricity, right – circuitry)