

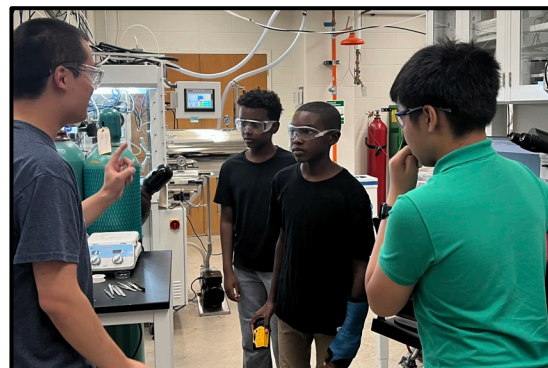
RET Fellow and MRSEC Research Team Continue to Support Student Outreach through Mentorship Program

Shelly Grandell & Jason Kawasaki, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Lalitha Murali, Milwaukee Public Schools

Wisconsin MRSEC Research Experience for Teachers 2022 fellow Lalitha Murali leveraged her connection with Jason Kawasaki in Wisconsin MRSEC IRG 2 and support from a Agris-Pine grant from the Society for Science to arrange science project mentors for 7th grade students from her Title I school in Milwaukee.

Three of Murali's students met with regularly with three MRSEC graduate student mentors throughout the school year. The mentors taught students about STEM research and design practices and current Wisconsin MRSEC research and gave them tours of MRSEC facilities. The students developed their own science fair projects with ongoing support from their MRSEC mentors. All three students placed in the top three in their respective categories at the Wisconsin State Science Fair, and Biruk Deneke won the Wisconsin State Young Inventors Award for his project on maglev trains and sustainable public transportation.

The IRG 2 team and Ms. Murali's student mentorship experience will be highlighted in an upcoming documentary film "*My Teacher in Space*", which will be showcased at the 2024 Space Symposium.



(upper left, going clockwise), students tour MRSEC lab facilities, MRSEC graduate student mentors meet individually with students, and an award-winning science fair project developed and presented by Biruk Deneke.