

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR UNDERGRADUATES IN NANOTECHNOLOGY INCLUDES TRAINING IN ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Program Director: Mark Hersam

Northwestern University Nanoscale Science & Engineering Center (NU-NSEC)

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Consistent with the goal of providing opportunities that reach broadly into the student talent pool of our nation, the NU-NSEC Research Experience for Undergraduates equips students to take charge of their research in a disciplined and creative manner, to lead others in such endeavors, and to effectively communicate and collaborate with other researchers. The program curriculum prepares students by emulating the research and dissemination cycle, while providing training in communication skills necessary for success. Under the direction of Professor Mark Hersam the 9-week program includes laboratory-based scientific research, an ethics-in-science module, technical writing workshops, training in effective oral communications, final symposium presentation, and submission of final papers to *Nanoscope: The Journal for Undergraduate Research in Nanoscience* for possible publication. This unique experience includes distance learning continuing through the academic year with emailed peer reviews, edits and revisions. Since inception in 2002, the program has provided these opportunities to 115 undergraduates representing 47% racial/ethnic minorities, 43% female, 63% from outside the home institution and 35% from smaller schools where research opportunities are limited or non-existent.



Graduate student mentor Josh Goldberger and REU Angelica Diaz from the University of Turabo, Puerto Rico, prepare to characterize a prototype solar cell.