

UMD-MRSEC Research Experience for Undergraduates Program (REU)

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- **Providing Excellence:** The REU program at the UMD-MRSEC provides an exciting and challenging research program for undergraduates. Receiving over 85 applications for 9 internship positions, the UMD-MRSEC REU program is competitive and attracts diverse and outstanding students. The UMD-MRSEC strives to recruit underrepresented students in science and to provide them with the best possible research experience complimented by a seminar series, industrial and national laboratory tours, professional development, and social activities to build a community among students. The success of the program is illustrated by the expertise of the advisors and the achievements of the students.
- **Star Students:** The UMD-MRSEC is proud of the success of REU student Paris Alexander and her advisor, Dr. Min Ouyang, Department of Physics. Ms. Alexander won the first place prize for best poster in the 30th Annual National Society of Black Physicists Conference in Boston for her REU summer research on fabrication of one-dimensional nanowires. Referring to her REU experience, Alexander says, "I have found a research area where I have strong interest and I am eager to learn more about."
- **Increasing Diversity:** The UMD-MRSEC strives to increase the number of underrepresented students in academic science programs and in science and technology careers. In order to achieve this goal, the UMD-MRSEC works with HBCUs, NSF-LASAMP and SNF-AGEP: PROMISE programs to recruit, mentor and foster students. In addition, the UMD-MRSEC collaborates with Sociedad Mexicana de Fisica (SMF-REU) led by UMD-physics faculty, Dr. Luis Orozco. This year the UMD-MRSEC REU includes a highly diverse group of young scientists ready to take on challenging research.
- **Going on to Graduate School and Science Careers:** Student evaluations and annual random sampling of UMD-MRSEC REU show that 87% of students go on to graduate school and/or choose careers in industry. In addition, 91% of students stated that their REU experience was instrumental in their future academic and career planning.

