

Paul M. Voyles, University of Wisconsin–Madison  
Shelly Grandell, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Wisconsin MRSEC scientists created an interactive experience to engage high school students participating in the UW-Madison PEOPLE pre-college program with materials research. PEOPLE provides longitudinal support to first-generation college students from historically marginalized and underrepresented groups. Attendees had expressed interest in STEM fields, but for most, this was their first interaction with materials science.

Participants were welcomed into MRSEC labs across campus, engaged in exciting, cutting-edge research through hands-on demonstrations and activities created specifically for their visit.

On a survey, 86% of students indicated the experience was very interesting and fun. New discoveries and connections were made, and one student stated "I realized how beneficial the software system [for 3D field modeling] is".



(upper left, going clockwise)  
observing microconductors,  
exploring diffraction of lasers,  
investigating structures and  
uses of thin films with  
microscale machines.

