The Graduate Research Experience and Transitioning to Grad School program provides a 6-week in-person program to incoming marginalized students in MRSEC member departments to facilitate their transition to grad school. GREAT GradS provides an in-person research experience, professional development and community building to create a sense of belonging in STEM, and development of life skills key to grad school success. The in-person experience was particularly important for those marginalized students who didn’t experience a traditional REU or summer internship because of COVID-19.