

Institutional-Level Diversity Initiatives



The Penn State MRSEC has recognized that, in order to further increase the diversity of our own Center participation, we need to target institutional-level change by addressing pipeline issues of recruiting, support and retention. While continuing the historically most effective diversity-focused efforts that have provided consistent Center representation of female and URM participants above departmental levels, three brand new diversity initiatives were fully implemented in the past year:

- a Fall STEM Open House for prospective graduate students and senior year REU students
- a joint event series called “Different People, Different Science, Working Together” which includes diversity training integrated with exposure to interdisciplinary research for participants in multiple summer research programs
- a partnership with Penn State’s brand new Millennium Scholars program matches MRSEC faculty to first year undergraduate scholars for their first summer research experience

Participants of these programs are female and URM individuals with direct or close reach to Center research activities.