

UC SANTA BARBARA MRL

Materials Research Laboratory

UCSB's RET program

The Materials Research Laboratory at UCSB sponsors a **Research Experience for Teachers** (RET) program in which local k-12 science teachers are placed in UCSB research laboratories. To apply for future summers, please visit the link above.

The MRL

Our education programs provide undergraduate research opportunities, graduate student training, outreach to k-12 students and teachers, and community outreach.

This fall, scientists and professors are welcoming new Materials graduate students into their positions in the No. 1 ranked Materials graduate program in the nation (among public institutions).



Research Experience for Teachers: Summer 2022

This summer's program saw successful research placements of local science teachers Melissa Moore, Lauren Smith, Lindsey Agnew, Steven Addison and Kevin Valdez into a diverse set of UCSB materials science, chemistry and ecology research groups. Project descriptions can be found on [our program webpage](#).

Melissa Wilson of Riviera Ridge School and Tiffany Cunningham of Santa Maria High School, who conducted research projects in summer of 2020, developed their RET curriculum projects, which will be shared at our annual [Science Teacher Workshop](#), to be held in Spring 2023.





Outreach programs

In the 2021-2022 school year MRL graduate students were able to in person and remotely visit with various junior high and high schools. We were able to offer, and continue to offer:

- Materials science demonstrations and inquiry by graduate students, along with insights into research. (example pictured above)
- "Virtual mini-tours" of UCSB labs by MRL grad students
- Solar car and buckyball building activities

For details, please contact education@mrl.ucsb.edu

Summer 2023:

Please consider applying for the summer 2023 RET program, (applications accepted year round).



Summer Takeaways

Engaging in the hands-on practice of science, here at UCSB, is an impactful way to enhance your skills in communicating science. At the end of their summer program, our RET teachers gave final presentations to each other and to members of their research groups. The slides and audio from these presentations are available [at this link](#). As you can see from the variety of projects, each teacher's lab experience is unique. What these projects have in common is that each teacher is treated as a contributing scientist and challenged to study an authentic and current scientific problem. These experiences and the classroom exercises our teachers design will serve to engage their students' interest and inquiry into the natural world. Interested in being part of our community? Please contact the email to the left or visit us during our workshop, or of course consider becoming a RET applicant!

- Frank Kinnaman, Dotti Pak and the scientists of the MRL.

