

Research endeavors, cross cultural experiences, and educational activities

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The Wisconsin MRSEC Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program is a cross cultural collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez (UPRM). The RET program provides science teachers from Wisconsin and Puerto Rico an authentic research and cultural literacy professional development experience.

The program culminates with an in-person capstone week where the RETs from both sites share the research-inspired classroom activities they have developed and learn from one another about teaching in a different cultural and geographic environment. The teachers learn about the area and culture that is unique to the site hosting the capstone.

Teachers' responses to a post-program survey indicate that they gained a better understanding of fundamental science concepts, learned new ways to improve their teaching, and built relationships with teachers from other cultures which will allow them to teach more inclusively. These data highlight this program as an excellent research and cultural literacy professional development experience.



During the RET capstone week, teachers from Wisconsin and Puerto Rico share the educational activities they developed (top left) and enjoy educational field trips to learn about the local ecology (top right) and research being conducted in Puerto Rico (bottom).