

Shelly Grandell, University of Wisconsin - Madison

The Wisconsin MRSEC partnered with the Colorado Migrant Education Program to provide MRSEC-developed research-inspired activities to a new underserved and underrepresented audience during the 2023 summer Migrant Education STEAM Academy.

30 students constructed triboelectric nanogenerators, explored diffraction of light to create art, and investigated magnetism.

Survey data showed that 80% of students found the materials science activities very/extremely interesting and fun. While using this knowledge to investigate the magnetite sand deposits in the Great Sand Dunes National Park, one student exclaimed “Whoa! I never would have known this was all in here if it wasn’t for this magnet!”



(left:) separating magnetite sand at the Great Sand Dunes National Park, (right) exploring polarizers and light to create art, (bottom) building triboelectric nanogenerators.

