

NSF-MRSEC University of Maryland Highlight

Thinking Small: Nanoscale Informal Science Education (NISE) Activities

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- **The University of Maryland (UMD) MRSEC** joined the NISE Network in the nation-wide effort to bring nanoscience to communities across the country during the week of March 29 - April 6, 2008.
- **Service-based:** The Maryland MRSEC uses a service-based approach to carry out its education outreach mission. This approach allowed 12 faculty, post docs, and graduate students to get involved with NISE and present research-related information to students within the context of sharing nanoscience demonstrations. MRSEC developed inspiring nano presentations, brought additional materials that complimented the NISE kit demonstrations, and gave real application to research projects going on at UMD.
- **Exciting Week of Activities: 1:** MRSEC researchers visited a local high school's **Science and Technology Program** where they effectively engaged 90 students, 6 teachers, and 2 external education consultants in nanoscience presentations and demonstrations.
- **2:** Nine middle school science teachers participated in MRSEC's **Nanoscience Teacher Workshop**, during which they received one-on-one instruction, lessons, and supplies.
- **3:** MRSEC members visited a local elementary school where they involved 55 5th and 6th graders and 4 teachers in **nanoscience activities**.
- **4:** During the MRSEC **Nanoscience Open House**, researchers shared a nanoscience presentation and activities with homeschool families.
- **5:** Elementary School families learned about the nanoworld in **Family Science Night** from MRSEC researchers.

