



TEXAS  
STATE  
PREM

Partnerships for Research and  
Education in Materials



**The PREM Center: Interfaces in Materials – A Partnership of Texas  
State University and the Research Triangle MRSEC**



James E. Shepard, Founder

**PREM Director's Meeting**  
Friday, September 14, 2012

# Texas State University – San Marcos

- **Emerging Research University**
- **Total enrollment > 35,000**
  - **Hispanic Serving Institution**
  - **87 Master programs, 12 PhD programs**
- **New PhD in Materials Science, Engineering and Commercialization (MSEC)**
  - **Biology, chemistry, biochemistry, physics, engineering**
  - **MS requirement for admission, entrepreneurship, small business**
- **The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry**
  - **MS/BS in chemistry or biochemistry**
  - **> 400 UG majors**
  - **22 tenure track faculty**
    - **41% untenured, 27% female, 10% URM**



Partnership with Research Triangle MRSEC  
Duke, NC State, UNC, NC Central



# IRG 1 Team: Multicomponent Colloid Assembly by Comprehensive Interaction Design

## Colloidal Assembly

<b>Orlin Velev</b> (IRG 1 leader, NCSU)	<b>Benjamin Yellen</b> (IRG 1 co-leader, Duke)	<b>Richard Superfine</b> (Senior Investigator, UNC)
Directed and programmed e-field assembly, Janus, and patchy particles	Programmable magnetic field assembly, ferrofluids particle manipulation	Magnetic field micromanipulation, multiscale mechanics, matl. characterization
		

## Theory and Computation

<b>Carol Hall</b> (AMRSEC Co-PI, NCSU)	<b>Joshua Socolar</b> (Senior Investigator, Duke)	<b>Patrick Charbonneau</b> (Junior Investigator, Duke)
Molecular dynamics simulations – particle and molecule assembly and phases	Quasiperiodic lattices critical dynamics in self-organizing systems	Polymer, protein and particle soft matter, phase transitions, dimensionality
		

## Synthesis/Integration

<b>Gabriel Lopez</b> (AMRSEC PI, Duke)	<b>Joseph Tracy</b> (Junior Investigator, NCSU)	<b>Benjamin Wiley</b> (Junior Investigator, Duke)
Bionanomaterials, silica nanocontainers, microporous and functional films	Magnetic/anisotropic nanoparticle synthesis and assembly	Rod-like particles, open structures, nanoparticle films and nanomaterials
		

# IRG2 Team: Genetically Encoded Polymer Syntax for Programmable Hierarchical Self-Assembly

**Ashutosh Chilkoti**



- Genetically encoded synthesis
- In situ DNA polymers
- Light scattering

**Stefan Zauscher**



- Polymer brushes
- In situ DNA polymerization
- AFM, SPR, QCM

**Jan Genzer**



- Controlled polymerization
- Ellipsometry, NEXAFS, Kerr effect

**Michael Rubinstein**



- Scaling theory of polymer self-assembly
- **Computer simulations**

**Carol Hall**



- **Computer simulations**
- Self-assembly of soft matter
- Protein aggregation

**Yara Yingling**



- MD simulations of DNA & syntactomers
- Structure-function of biomolecules

**Gabriel López**



- Hybrid responsive colloids
- surfaces
- membranes

**Darlene Taylor**



- Programmed thin film casting
- **Polymer synthesis**

 Synthesis & Characterization

 Theory

 Simulation

 Processing



# PREM Center for Interfaces in Materials Texas State University Team

## *Thrust 1: Multiscale Colloid Interfaces*



Gary Beall



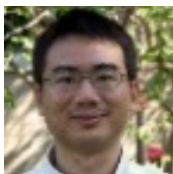
Jennifer Irvin



Bill Brittain, PI



Chad Booth



Luyi Sun



Ben Martin

## *Thrust 2: Regulatory Control of Polymer Self-Assembly into Functional Nanomaterials*



Tania Betancourt



Steve Whitten

## *Thrust 3: Propagation of Knowledge through Shared Mentorship: The Pipeline to Success in STEM Education*



Ozcan Gulacar



Ben Martin



Bill Brittain, PI



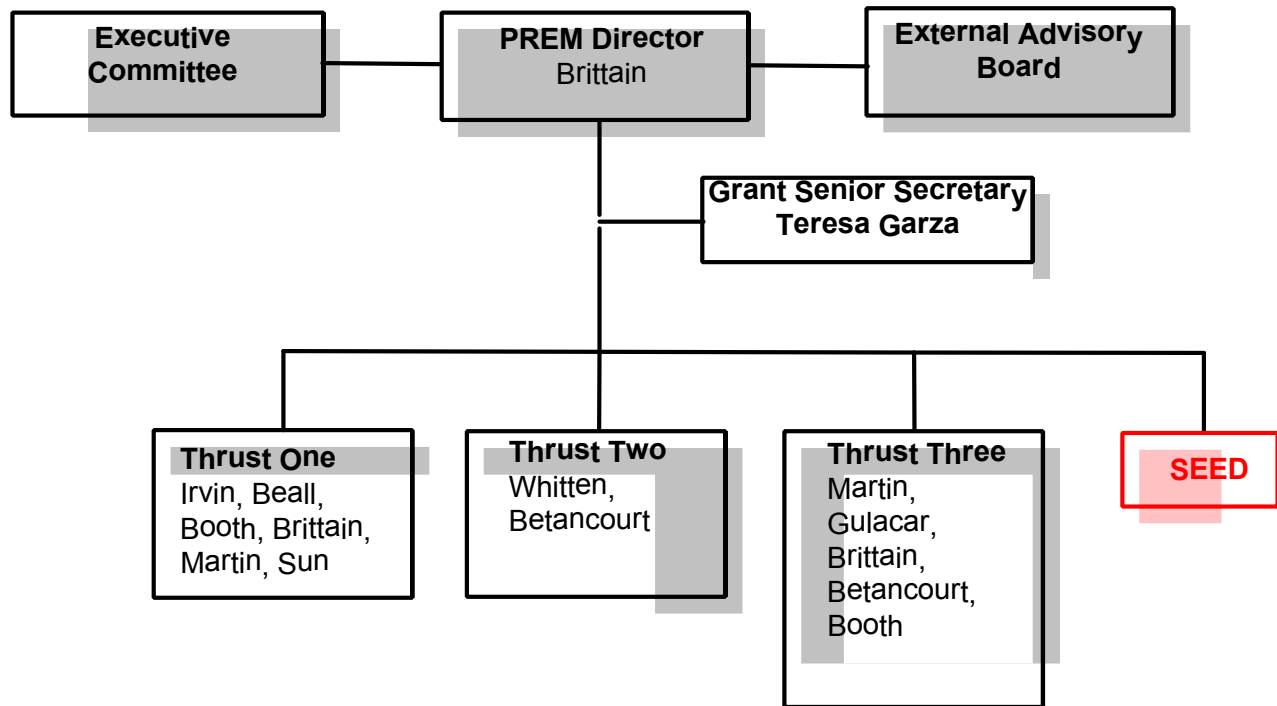
Tania Betancourt



Chad Booth



# Texas State PREM Management Structure



External Advisory Board – two meetings/yr, one by video conference

Tim Demming (Bioengineering, UCLA)  
 Brian Windsor (Emergent Tech, Austin)  
 Dhiraj Sardar (UTSA PREM PI)

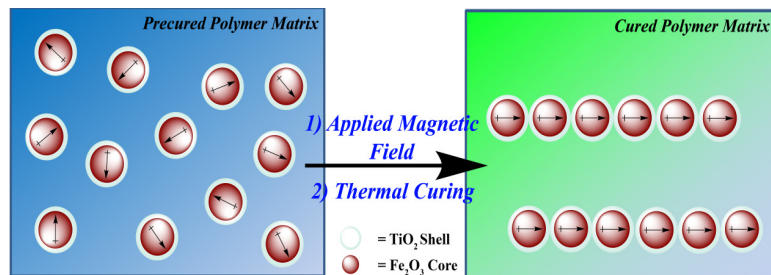
Don Patterson (Nanohmics, Austin)  
 M. I. Knudson (Rockwood Additives)  
 José Yacaman (UTSA Physics Chair)

Internal Executive Committee – six meetings/yr, 4 by video conference

William Brittain	Jennifer Irvin	Steve Whitten	Ben Martin
Stefan Zauscher	Gabriel Lopez	Yara Yingling	

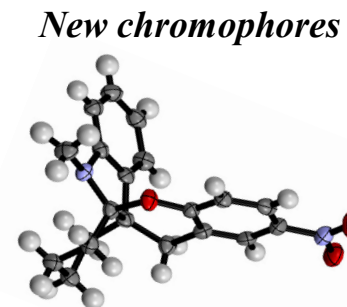
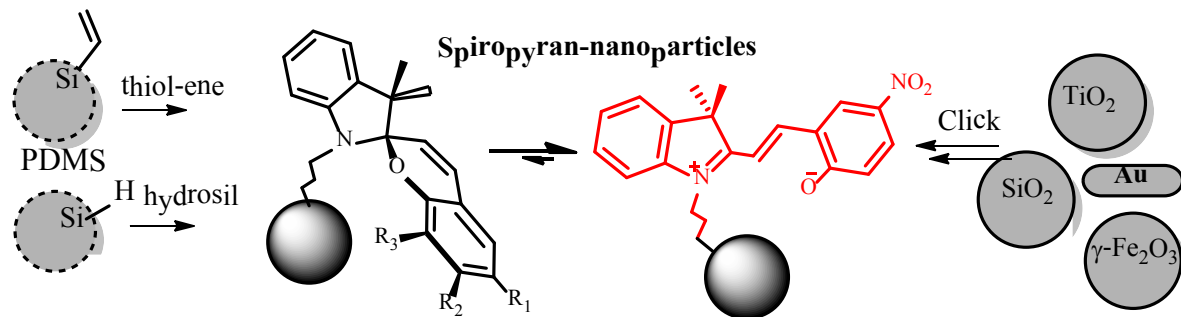
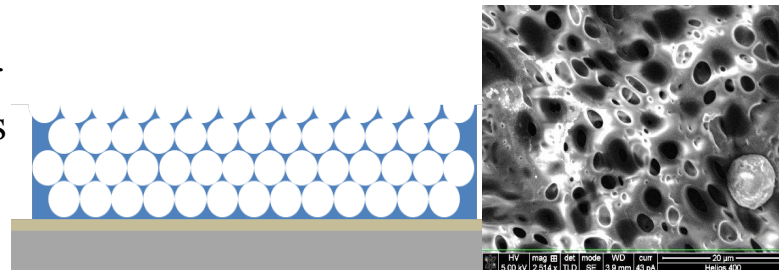
*Ex-officio* - Steve Seidman (Dean, College of Sci/Eng), Jamie Chahin (Dean, College of Applied Arts)

# Thrust 1: Multiscale Colloid Interfaces



**Magnetic orientation** of polyimide nanocomposites for enhanced selectivity and permeability  
TxState: Booth/MRSEC: Tracy

**Templating effects** on conducting polymer morphology and electrochemical properties (left: approach; right: result)  
TxState: Irvin/MRSEC: Velev, Wiley



**Photochemical control of assembly** using organic chromophores in hybrid nanoparticle systems and self-assembling syntactomers  
TxState: Brittain/MRSEC: Lopez, Zauscher, Genzer, Chilcote



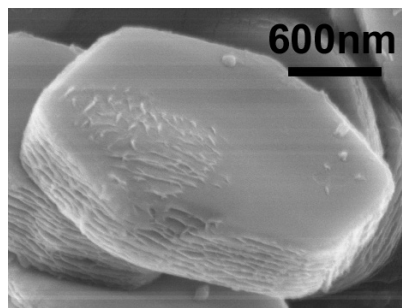
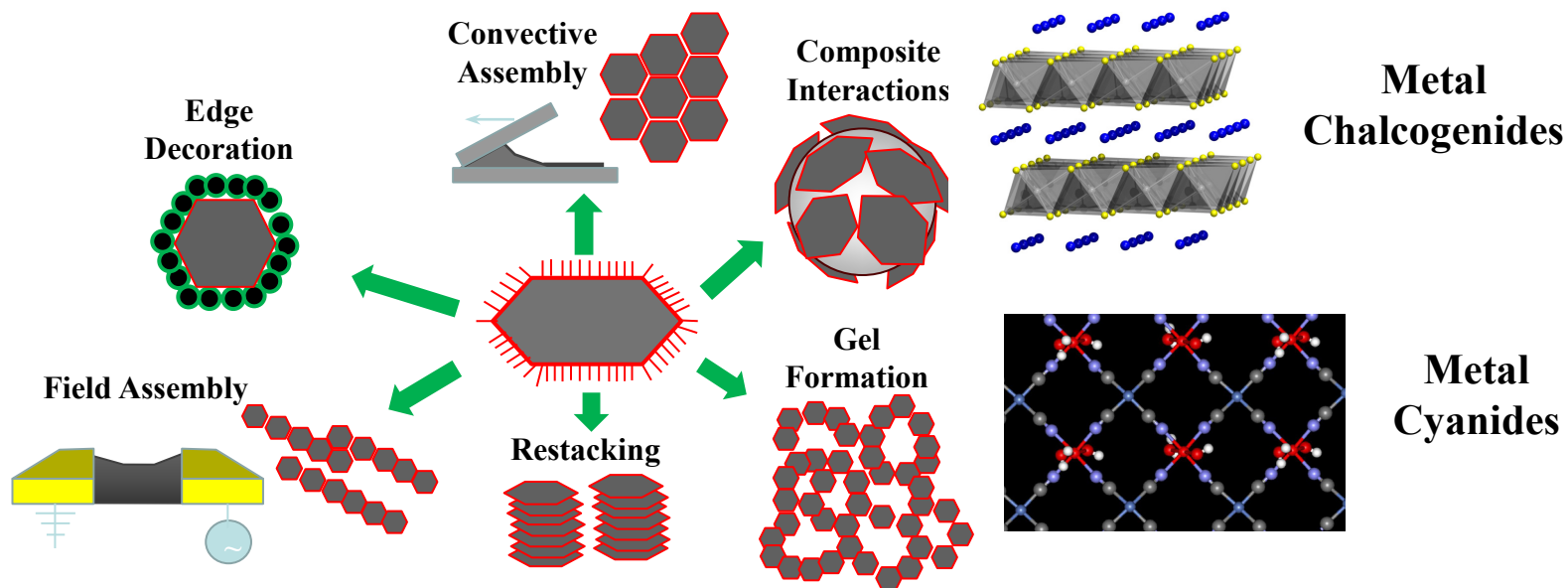


# Thrust 1: Multiscale Colloid Interfaces

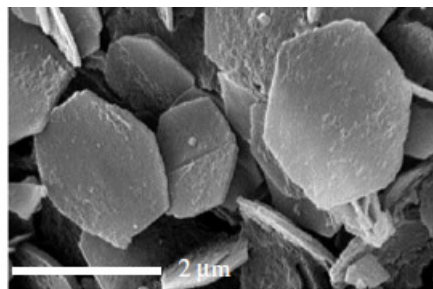
## Directed Self-Assembly of 2-Dimensional Nanosheets

TxState: Beall, Martin, Sun

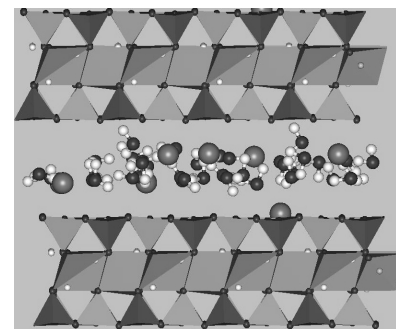
MRSEC: Hall, Lopez, Tracy, Velev, Wiley



$\alpha$ -Zirconium Phosphate



Layered Double Hydroxides



Smectic Clays

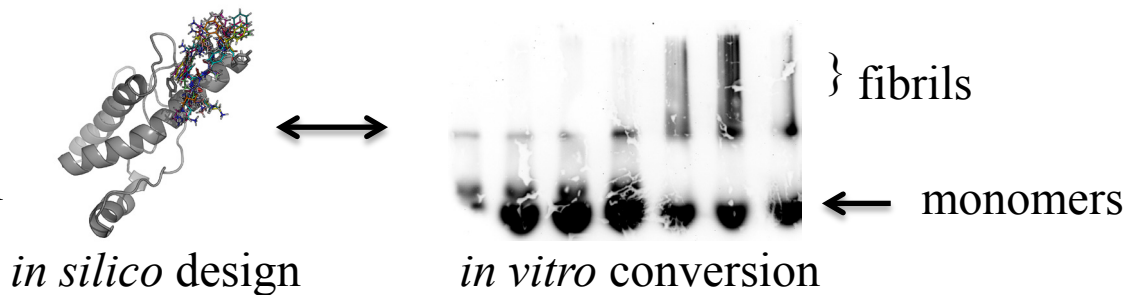




# Thrust 2: Regulatory Control of Polymer Self-Assembly into Functional Nanomaterials

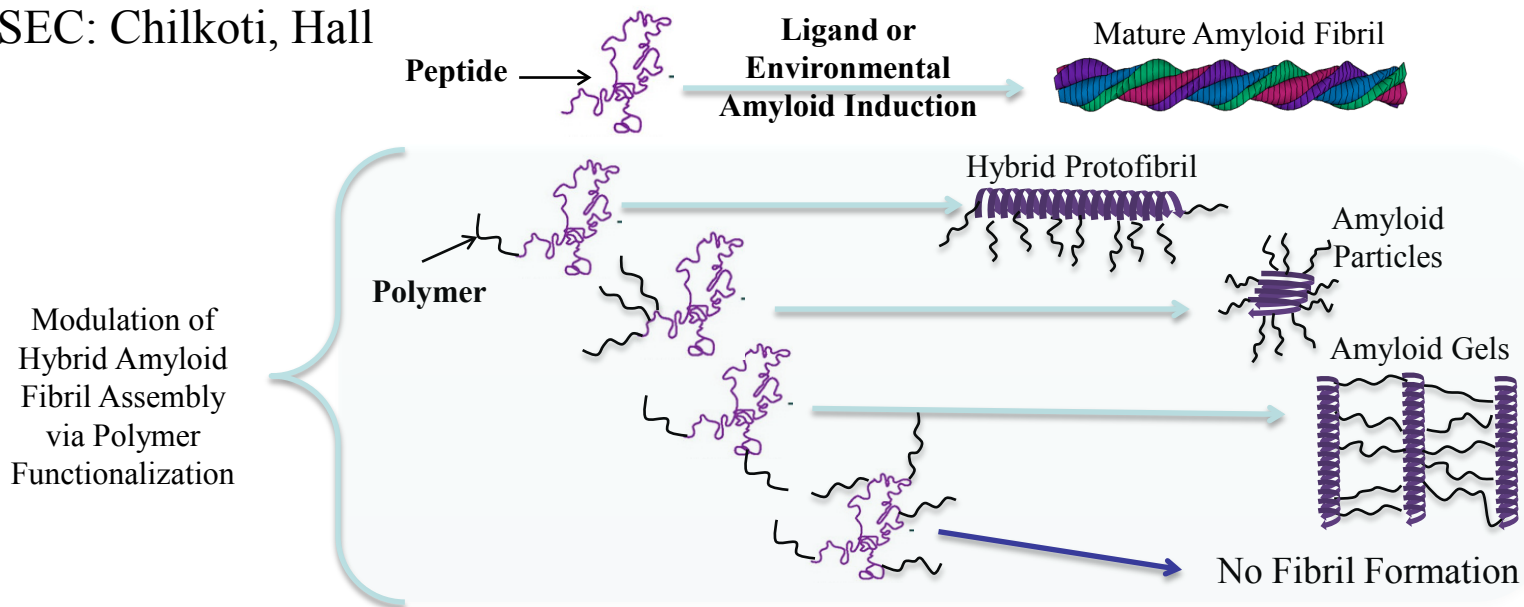
## Regulatory Control of Polymer Self-Assembly

TxState: Whitten  
MRSEC: Yingling, Hall



TxState: Betancourt  
MRSEC: Chilkoti, Hall

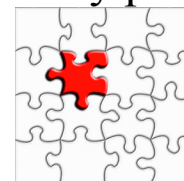
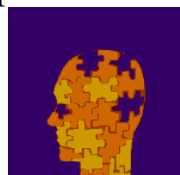
## Design of Functional Fibril Nanostructures



# Thrust 3: Propagation of Knowledge through Shared Mentorship: The Pipeline to Success in STEM Education

Chemical Education Research:  
Improving Teaching/Learning Experiences  
TxState: Gulacar

- The nature of challenges in learning chemistry
- Cognitive and metacognitive aspects of chemistry problem solving

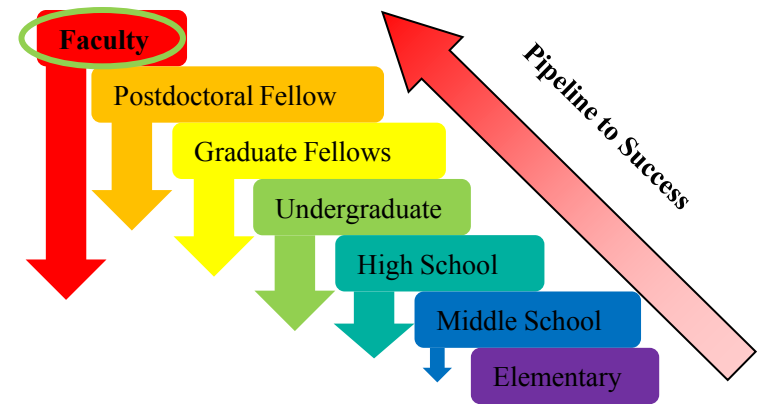


- Influence of guided-learning activities and educational technology on student performance





# The Cascade of Mentorship

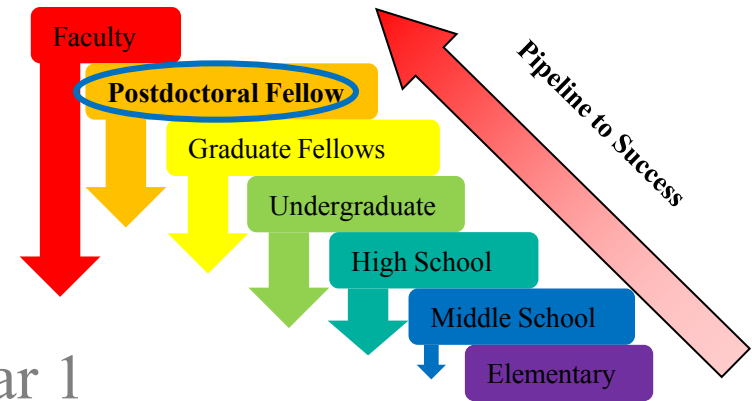


## Planned Activities

- **Faculty** – six exchanges year 1



# The Cascade of Mentorship

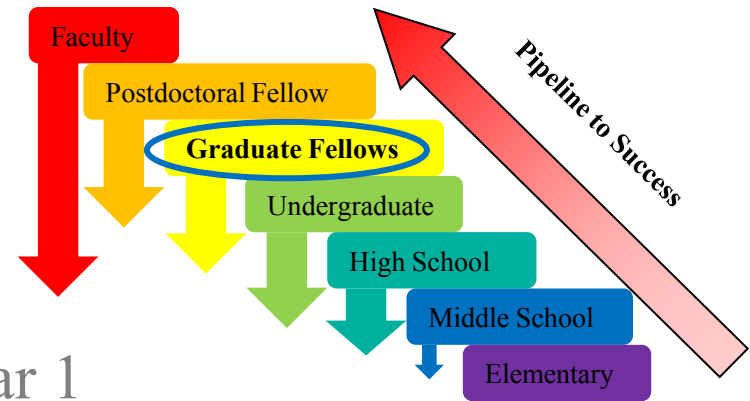


## Planned Activities

- **Faculty** – six exchanges year 1
- **Postdoctoral SEED** - \$10k for exploratory work



# The Cascade of Mentorship

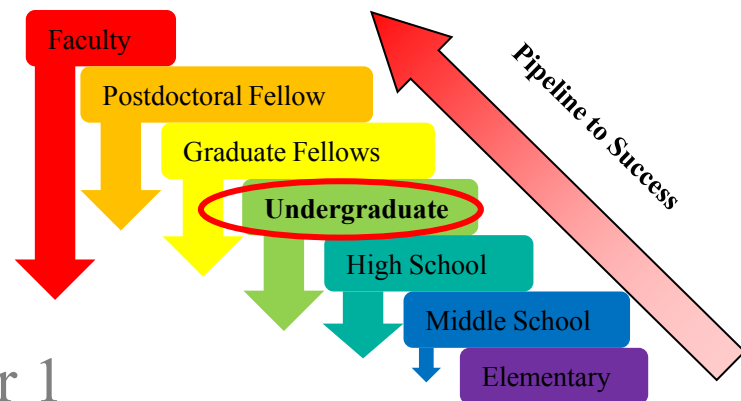


## Planned Activities

- **Faculty** – six exchanges year 1
- **Postdoctoral SEED** - \$10k for exploratory work
- **Four MRSEC Graduate Students** ↔ **Four PREM UGs** per year



# The Cascade of Mentorship



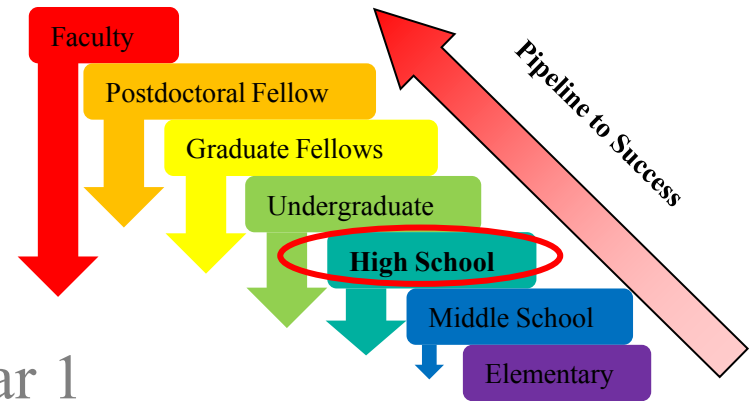
## Planned Activities

- **Faculty** – six exchanges year 1
- **Postdoctoral SEED** - \$10k for exploratory work
- Four MRSEC **Graduate Students** ↔ Four PREM UGs per year
- Four **PREM UGs** participate in MRSEC REU per year

*Synergy with TxState REU Chemistry research community with a focus on Molecular Innovation and Entrepreneurship*



# The Cascade of Mentorship

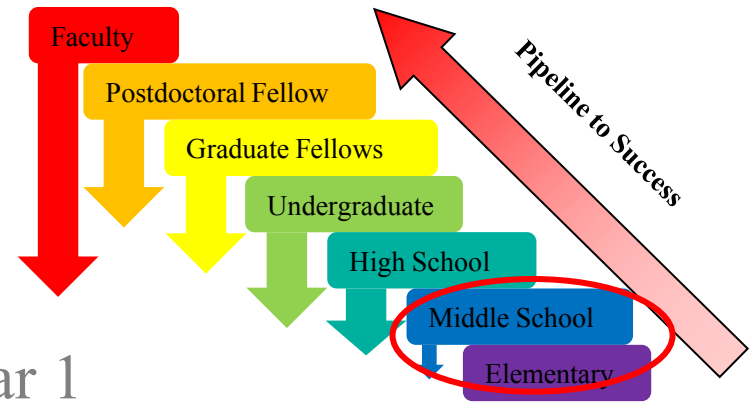


## Planned Activities

- **Faculty** – six exchanges year 1
- **Postdoctoral SEED** - \$10k for exploratory work
- Four MRSEC **Graduate Students**      Four PREM UGs per year
- Four **PREM UGs** participate in MRSEC REU per year
- **PREM Academy**



# The Cascade of Mentorship



## Planned Activities

- **Faculty** – six exchanges year 1
- **Postdoctoral SEED** - \$10k for exploratory work
- **Four MRSEC Graduate Students**      **Four PREM UGs** per year
- **Four PREM UGs** participate in MRSEC REU per year
- **PREM Academy**
- **PREM Science Events**







# PREM Academy – Class of 2012

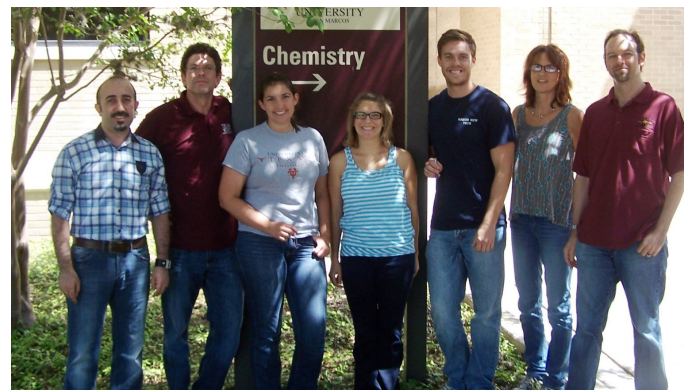
**Mornings-** Laboratory work  
PREM Faculty

- surface chemistry
- colloids
- polymer nanoparticles
- photochromism
- superconductors

**Afternoons** – Project Development  
Gulacar, consultants (UT Austin)

- Legacy Cycle – project units for TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills)
- POGIL – process oriented guided inquiry learning
- Vernier Technology – LabQuest, probes and sensors

*Kits will be provided to participants and modules disseminated on website.*



**July 30 – August 3**

- Stephanie Hart –Manor New Tech High
- Stuart Ray- Manor New Tech High School
- Abigail Randall-Akins High School-Austin
- Christina Jenschke-Akins High School-Austin





TEXAS  
STATE  
PREM

Partnerships for Research and  
Education in Materials



**Kickoff Meeting**  
**August 17, 2012**  
**Duke University**

**Agenda**

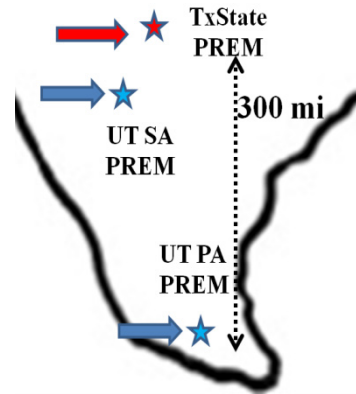
Exec Comm Meeting	9:30 am
MRSEC Overview	10:30 am
TxState Overview	11:00 am
Individual research meetings	1:30 pm





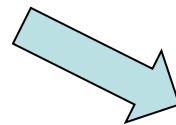
# Texas PREM Network

From the proposal

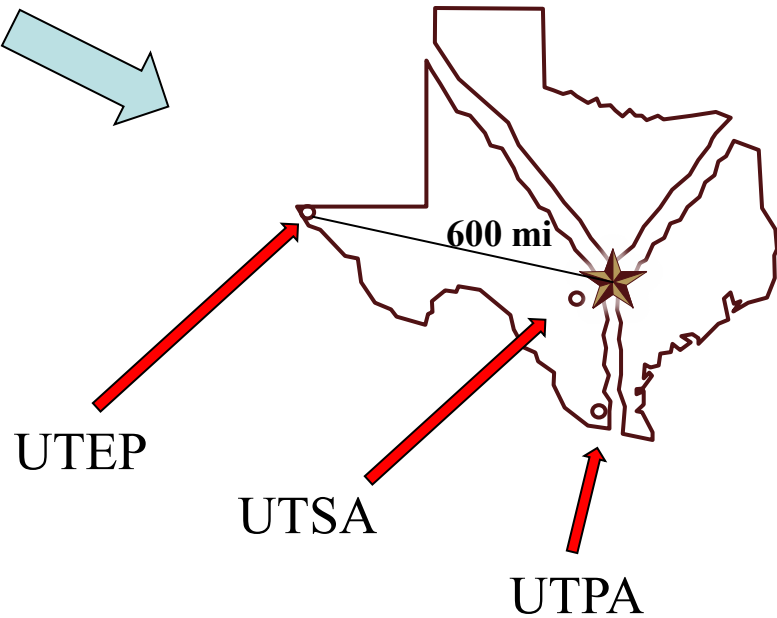


Texas PREM Network

South Central Corridor

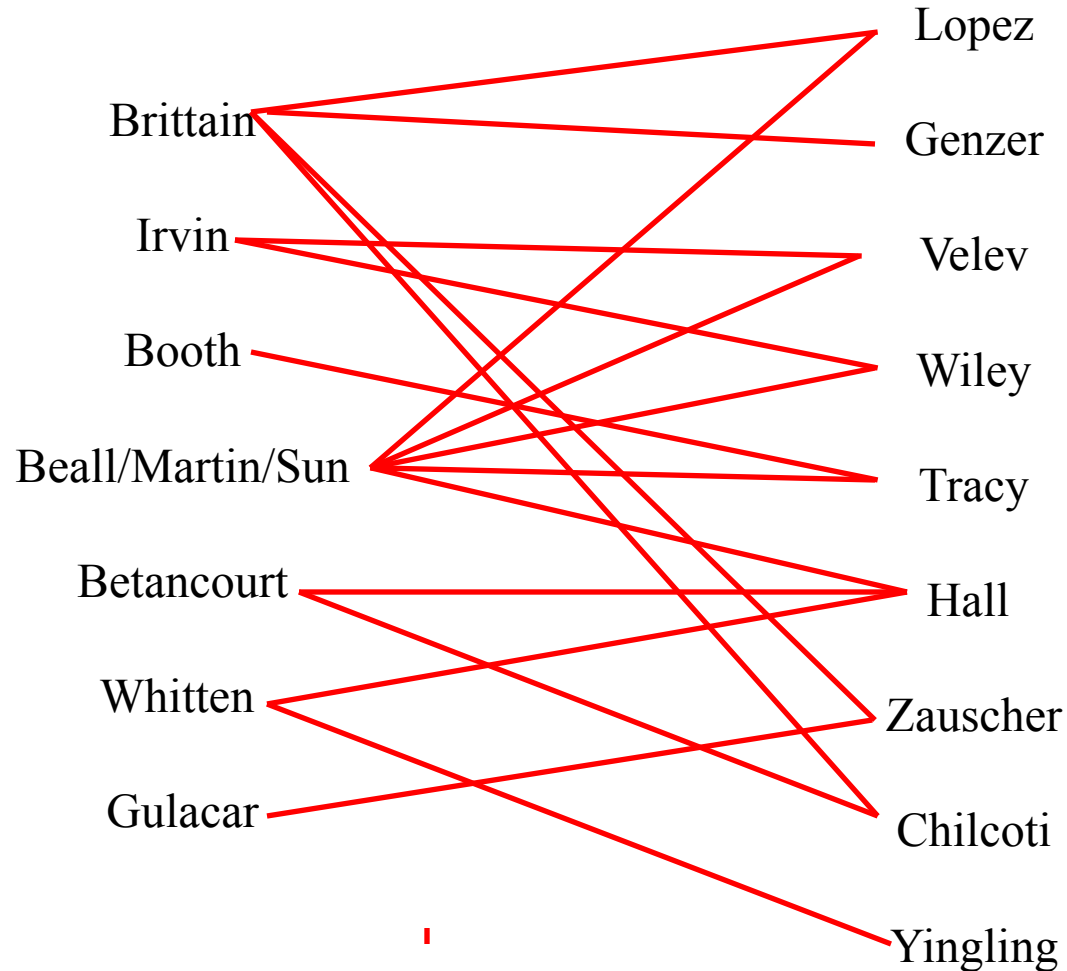


Southwest Texas





# PREM-MRSEC Collaborations



James E. Shepard, Founder



## Team Science\*

Interdisciplinary research is required for problems of sufficient complexity that a team is required – team science is the study of best practices.

*Unique* PREM Challenges: infrastructure disparity, geography and cross-disciplines. Communication is essential.



# Team Science\*

Interdisciplinary research is required for problems of sufficient complexity that a team is required – team science is the study of best practices.

*Unique* PREM Challenges: infrastructure disparity, geography and cross-disciplines. Communication is essential.

<http://www.cose.txstate.edu/prem/>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Texas State University PREM Center. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the university logo, a search bar, and links for 'Web Tools', 'About Texas State', 'Library', 'Maps', and 'Round Rock'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials' and a menu with 'Home', 'News & Events', 'Mission', 'Members', 'Research', and 'Education & Outreach'. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'WELCOME TO TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY PREM' over a background image of students in a lab. To the right of the banner is a sidebar with logos for 'RESEARCH TRIANGLE MRSEC' (listing Duke University, North Carolina State University, UNC Chapel Hill, and NC Central), 'PREM', and 'MRSEC'. Below the banner are three columns: 'MISSION' with a photo of a student and a 'LEARN MORE' button, 'EDUCATION & OUTREACH' with a 'LEARN MORE' button, and 'NEWS & EVENTS' listing dates from July 30th to August 17th, 2012, with a 'Visit News & Events' link.