

## INSPIRE-ND Builds the STEM Pipeline

**Outcome:** Several programs in addition to EMPOWERED-ND activities have engaged middle school, high school, and undergraduate students in a variety of events to encourage them to pursue STEM disciplines.

**Impact/Benefits:** Building the STEM pipeline is important for the future of the country. Providing education and training in STEM disciplines is critical for workforce development. Engaging students as early as possible has been shown to impact recruitment and retention of students in STEM areas.

**Explanation:** The EMPOWERED-ND is involved in the execution of the three project elements of the INSPIRE-ND initiative. The three project elements are: diversity, education and workforce development, and partnerships, collaborations, and communications. ND EPSCoR researchers have several synergistic activities to engage students at all levels. Some of these are: summer research programs and workshops for high school students, STEM high school boot camp, research experience for undergraduates, and hosting international conferences. These activities have led to broadening education and research opportunities to students.



Summer STEM Research: High school students working in the laboratory, making oral and poster presentations.

*ND EPSCoR National Science Foundation RII Track 1 Grant #IIA-1355466*