During the summer of 2009, REMRSEC piloted a 10-week Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program that featured 20 undergraduate students pursuing research projects under the guidance of 10 REMRSEC faculty mentors. The program was directed by Dr. Charles Stone of the CSM Physics Department. REMRSEC funds and NSF Supplements from individual PIs supported the inaugural program. In the 2009 REU, students had the opportunity to select from a broad range of cutting edge renewable energy projects and then perform research under the direct guidance of research faculty, post-doctoral fellows, graduate student mentors, and a community of internationally recognized scientists and engineers. Projects fell into REMRSEC focus areas including next generation photovoltaics, advanced membrane technology, and novel energy storage concepts. In all instances, the essential role played by advanced materials in improving renewable technologies was at the forefront. The participating faculty have a record of effective involvement with undergraduate students in their research programs, and undergraduate participation is, in fact, an important aspect of their research success.

Field trips, graduate school workshops, career seminars, popular lectures, and weekly scientific talks complemented students' research pursuits to provide an interactive, encouraging, and multi-level experience that could be drawn upon when making decisions about advanced education, thesis and dissertation topics, and future scientific careers. Our REU recruiting targeted women, underrepresented minorities, persons with disabilities, and first-year and second-year undergraduates. Specific recruiting targets included Salish Kootenai College (a tribal college). Students were offered opportunities to hone their presentation skills both within the summer program and at subsequent professional meetings where they presented their research results.