

Nanotechnology as a 21st Century Educational Tool

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Nanotechnology provides an ideal platform to achieve modern educational goals, so it can be used as an effective mechanism to train the next generation of STEM professional. The field is highly interdisciplinary, uses cutting edge technology, and offers intriguing examples of scientific phenomena and engineering achievements. Engaging in nanotechnology also offers opportunities to develop professional skills from effectively communicating technical information to creating compelling resumes. This talk will include examples of how nanotechnology has been used as an educational tool in undergraduate education. A Nanotechnology Fellows Program will be discussed as an interdisciplinary practicum approach which prepares undergraduates for careers in emerging technologies. The program results demonstrate how nanotechnology serves as a useful educational, professional development, and workforce development tool, even for students who do not pursue careers in nanotechnology.