Research Experience for Teachers (RET)
Engineering for People and the Planet:
Research Experiences for Teaching Integrated STEM

- **Target Audience:** 6-12th grade science, math, engineering, or computer science educators in the Central MA area
- **Dates:** 6 weeks between June 30 – August 8, 2025; and up to 4 follow-up sessions during the academic year for continued PD as a cohort *(dates TBD)*
- **Time:** 8 am – 5 pm *(with lunch break)*
- **Format:** In-person lab work during the Summer with weekly PD sessions *(academic year sessions may be virtual)*

- **Stipends:**
  - **In-service educators** = $10,250
  ($8750 paid for full 6-week summer session + $1500 paid following the academic year sessions)
  - **Pre-service educators** = $9,000
  ($7500 paid for full 6-week summer session + optional $2000 paid for an extended 1.5 weeks of summer research + $1500 paid following the academic year sessions)
  - **Materials** – In-service educators will also receive $1000 for classroom materials that support their project and pre-service educators will receive $500
  - **Travel** – Each educator will receive $250 in support of registration or travel to conferences to disseminate their research and/or teaching results from the program
- **PDPs:** 28 professional development points will be awarded at the end of the academic year

Description: WPI was awarded a grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to offer a Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program for pre- and in-service teachers. The experience focuses on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for an integrated approach of learning and doing science, math, and engineering through real-world problems that focus on people and the planet.

Four WPI *pre-service* and four *in-service teachers* will be paired to do authentic summer research for *six-weeks* in a lab with a WPI faculty mentor on topics such as healthy lives and climate action. More information about the 2025 projects is posted on our website. In addition, the teachers will participate in professional development workshops to translate their research experience into lesson plans and classroom activities, as well as present their work to broader audiences during the academic year.

Expectations:
- Participate in 6 full weeks of research, including weekly PD workshops *(Summer 2025)*
- Create a poster of the research experience for a poster symposium at the end of RET *(Summer 2025)*
- Develop a lesson plan based on research experience and PD workshops *(Draft - Summer 2025)*
- Implement, share, modify and submit lesson plan *(2025-26 Academic Year)*
- Participate in cohort activities and PD sessions (4 TBD) *(2025-26 Academic Year)*
- Present poster and lesson plan to a broader audience *(Spring 2026)*

Visit website to apply (Note: application is through the NSF ETAP platform)

Timeline:
- RET participant applications due 2/19/25, 11:59 pm
- Notifications by mid-March

For questions, contact Kathy Chen, kcchen@wpi.edu

https://wp.wpi.edu/ret-stem/