Managed from Furman University, the SC RET program will enable teachers to engage in a 6-week immersion research experience at an institution in their local area.

These experiences (the first for many SC teachers) expose teachers to modern research methods and allow them to link their research projects to classroom activities designed to increase their students’ knowledge and awareness of science.

Teachers will be directed in carrying out unique, individualized research projects resulting in scientific presentation at the RET poster session in late summer/early fall.

This program represents a full time commitment (~40 hours per week) and provides financial support ($3,000 each) to participants.

Program Objectives:

◊ Deepen content knowledge within specific discipline
◊ Increase understanding of research process (process skills)
◊ Through engagement with Research Mentor and SC Statewide RET Coordinator, translate summer experience into module/lesson plan for academic year instruction
◊ Create and present research poster at Network RET Poster Session (late summer/early fall)
◊ Support module/lesson plan delivery through materials support (up to $500) and academic year visit(s) by RET Coordinator
◊ Deliver presentation (research or curricular focus) beyond summer/fall poster session; district PD, SCAS, SCJAS, INBRE or EPSCoR Annual Meeting

Research Topics:

A complete listing of research projects and potential project mentors will be available in early January.

This list may include research opportunities in the following disciplines:

- Biology
- Biomedical
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Health Sciences
- Mathematics
- Neuroscience
- Physics
- Polymer Science

ED PD 662 (Optional)
Research Experience for STEM Teachers

Teachers selected for the research experience may register for 4-6 credit hours of recertification / professional development credit. Course serves to connect summer research experience with tangible teaching artifacts to bring back into the classroom. Course credit is offered through the Furman University Office of Graduate Studies.
In 2015, the SC INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) network received an $18 million NIH award. In 2017, the State of South Carolina was awarded a $20 million NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 grant; Made in SC.

Consisting of the state’s three comprehensive universities (USC, MUSC and Clemson) in collaboration with partner institutions throughout the state, these two programs serve to expand biomedical research capacity and strengthen our focus on advanced materials research.

In an effort to strengthen the pipeline of SC K-12 students that are ready to engage in biomedical and advanced materials research and building upon the success of the Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program at Furman University, these combined initiatives will support 14 teachers per year.

Researchers at all participating institutions (see map) will have the opportunity to directly engage teachers in their local community through in-depth 6-week research experiences. In addition to expanding their content knowledge in a specific field of research, the RET participants will translate their experience to modules (lesson plans) that will be delivered during the academic year.

Furman University

To learn more about this program or for more information including applications, listings of research projects and potential mentors; please contact:
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