Physics Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

In March, a group of physicists visited Washington DC to talk about science to Congressional Representatives, their staff, and others (including NSF Director Arden L. Bement, Jr.). Our message: basic research is vital to America's economy and our children's futures (and it's fun!). Equipped with an arsenal of physics demonstrations, including ones developed in our University of Chicago MRSEC supported outreach work, we showed congress people and their staffers that MRSEC science is both interesting and important.

Outreach of this type puts a face on our research, reminding our leaders that science involves real people who make real changes in the world by discovering real things. This effort was designed by the materials part of APS to inform congress about science and inform young scientists about the governmental process. Our MRSEC scientists learn that research is only half of a scientist's job - the other half is telling people about it.