

I-MRSEC educational web series: “Magnetic Fields”

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

In Summer 2019 the I-MRSEC officially released the web series “Magnetic Fields,” which follows middle school aged characters as they encounter a new material at the I-MRSEC, and emphasizes the scientific process, persistence, and the diversity of scientists. The episodes include “Behind the science,” featuring interviews with I-MRSEC researchers sharing their paths in science and advice to those interested in STEM studies.

The series, which involves 21 MRSEC faculty and students, was released onto YouTube and the I-MRSEC website, allowing it to reach a broad audience (the trailer alone has almost 2000 views). On August 1, 2019, the I-MRSEC hosted a campus-wide video release party which included a Q&A with **Mason**, the director of the series John Isberg, and several actors. “Magnetic Fields” was accepted for inclusion in the Sigma Xi STEM Art & Film Festival in November 2019 in Madison, WI. A screening of “Magnetic Fields” was held during the 2019 MMM Conference in Las Vegas.



Fig. 1: a) Screenshot from episode 2 of series, featuring a cameo by I-MRSEC grad student **Oolman**. b) Scene in which magnetic materials are illustrated. c) Actors share the impact of participating in the series during the release party on August 1, 2019. d) I-MRSEC grad student **Leem** discussing her path in science during a post-episode “Behind the science” clip. e) Poster advertising the screening at the MMM Conference in Las Vegas in November 2019.

Watch the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pIKyX5aK7g>

Series available for streaming via the I-MRSEC YouTube Channel:

[episode 1](#), [episode 2](#), [episode 3](#), and [episode 4](#).

Read more: “Via I-MRSEC’s Magnetic Fields Web Series, Youth Discover Magnetism, Diversity in Science” (9/19/19) <http://www.istem.illinois.edu/news/imrsec.magnetic.fields.html>

