

## **WVNano is awarded NSF grant for WVU science and engineering students to study abroad in China**

Faculty in the WVNano Initiative were awarded a \$150,000 grant for graduate and undergraduate students to travel to the State Key Laboratory of Supramolecular Structure and Materials at Jilin University in China. There they will engage in collaborative research projects between faculty at WVU and Jilin University.

After nearly two year of exchanges, this International Research Experience for Students award was approved through the National Science Foundation. Starting in 2009, students will have the opportunity to study abroad, working in a Chinese laboratory. The goal of this project is designed to offer WVU both undergraduates and graduates students an opportunity to value the science in China which is one of the fastest developing countries in this world. As the main part collaboration activity of this proposal, a research team consisting of at least 10 WVU students from different Science and Engineering departments will be divided into small research groups to perform interdisciplinary scientific research in our Chinese partner Jilin University in each summer. This program will last for three years.

The plan is for an undergraduate student to be paired with a WVU doctoral student. The team would then spend two months at Jilin University working on a collaborative research project.

The starting point of these study abroad activities started with six professors from the WVNano Initiative visiting Jilin University last summer to hold a Bilateral Symposium between the two institutions. This continued as WVU hosted five Chinese professors from Jilin University at the Multifunctional Nanomaterials International Symposium held on April 11-13 2008.

All the participants will be selected from different departments relative to the professors involved in the WVNano Initiative. A short training about basic Chinese culture and simple Chinese language will be offered. Students will join a local host research group corresponding to the research projects issued by various WVNano professors. Students will spend 8 weeks in Jilin University and perform different research activities related to nano-scale materials research projects proposed in the proposal. The culture visiting events will also be arranged for their weekend time and help them understand more about Chinese culture. During this 8-weeks, students will learn not only how to interact with people from different cultural backgrounds, but also how to compromise themselves to different experimental environments and techniques.

This short term experience of research aboard will be a great opportunity for the students to broad their vision of global trend and widen their view of international collaborations which are very important for US research and economy. This project is a starting point where WVU students will be offered an opportunity to walk out and learn how to carry out research work in a different culture background lab. This

experience help their future careers as the global trend in science continues.