Smart Lighting Outreach at The University of New Mexico
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Mentorships
Smart Lighting faculty and grad students provide mentored laboratory internships for K-12 teachers, undergraduates and high school students, who, in turn, also participate in outreach to K-12 students. High school interns learn how to make presentations and hone other academic and career related skills. We draw interns from a few specific Title 1 schools with which we have rich relationships, supporting teachers with outreach programs, speakers, UNM tours, funds for materials, research experiences and a Big Brother Big Sister mentorship.

Conclusions
Through community partnerships, internships and public outreach we aim to inspire and engage the next generation of optical scientists and engineers. We also show the public how its investment in Smart Lighting and STEM research and education will have an important impact on people’s health, productivity, energy usage and data accessibility in the future.

Our High School Research Learning Experience and Research Experiences for Teachers programs mentor participants in greater depth about STEM, optics and photonics and work to give high school students the tools, contacts and information they need to meet the demands of college.

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