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Materials

Materials are the foundation of the technological systems that are, and will continue to be, essential for the economic vitality and security of the United States. While chemists, physicists, biologists, and some types of engineers study of materials, the essential role of Materials Scientists and Engineers is to capitalize on discoveries in the basic sciences and use materials to solve technological problems that are important to society. Engineered materials enable advances in the fields of energy, biology, medicine, nanotechnology, transportation, environmental sustainability, communications, and information (link these words to key examples?). Within North American Universities, the entire scope of the materials research field is uniquely synthesized in academic units known as Materials Science and Engineering departments.

The UMC

The members of the University Materials Council are the heads or chairs of the Materials Science and Engineering departments in the United States and Canada. (link to a page that contains a link to every department). Materials Scientists and Engineers are essential to the development of every new technology and the MSE departments represented by the UMC are responsible for the education of the leaders who will create technological change in industry, government, and academia.

What the UMC does

The UMC has two primary functions:

- First, it provides a forum of the exchange of ideas and best practices that allow MSE education to continually develop and adapt to new opportunities and challenges.
- Second it advocates for MSE by representing the interests of MSE departments to professional societies, accreditation organizations, industry associations, government and non-governmental organizations.