

1098-00-203

**Suzanne L. Weekes\*** ([sweekes@wpi.edu](mailto:sweekes@wpi.edu)), Dept. of Mathematical Sciences, WPI, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609. *Undergraduate Research on Real-World Problems: Opportunities at WPI and through the PIC Math Program.*

The Center for Industrial Mathematics and Statistics (CIMS) at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) builds partnerships with business and industry to provide opportunities for our local math community to work on real-life mathematical problems that come directly from industry and that are of direct importance to the companies. We do this for WPI students during the academic year, and for other students nationwide via the NSF-supported WPI REU Program in Industrial Mathematics and Statistics. Students work under the guidance of a faculty member and a company representative to develop solutions of real value to the company.

We also describe a new national program, Preparation for Industrial Careers in the Mathematical Sciences (PIC Math) which is funded by the NSF. PIC Math is a comprehensive program which aims to increase awareness among mathematical sciences faculty and undergraduates about non-academic career options; provide students with research experience working on real problems from business, industry and government; and prepare students for industrial careers. (Received January 26, 2014)