

### 4.3 CURRENT DIVERSE, GLOBALLY-ORIENTED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WORKFORCE

#### 4.3.1 ALL SCOUT NANO EVENT

Working with Michael Kleppinger, Northrup Grumman engineer and assistant scoutmaster for Troop 309 in Lake Zurich, IL, the NSEC hosted the first Boy Scout Nano Event in 2003. In 2005, the annual event was expanded to include local Girl Scout troops. Sixteen troops from Chicago and the surrounding suburbs with nearly 100 scouts and venturing crew members attended the event.

The annual “All Scout Nano Event” includes presentations by graduate students and professors on “What is Nanotechnology?” and “Being a Scientist”; a “Microscopes and Lasers” tour including a demonstration of an atomic force microscope and visits to a wet lab and a laser lab; and hands-on activities involving nanoscience concepts and design challenges that have been developed for the NSEC *Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Module*. Prior to the event, participating troops research a nanotechnology topic of their choosing. The scouts correspond via email with a graduate student mentor to answer any questions that come up during the research process. Each troop illustrates their findings at the closing poster session and pizza party. The *All Scout Nano Event* has hosted more than 200 participants since inception and the Center plans to continue to offer this event annually.

