

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS (RET) PROGRAM**

Program Director, Professor Teri Odom

In summer 2002, the NU-NSEC launched an innovative two-year Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program for science teachers. While most RET programs provide one summer of hands-on research for teachers, the NU-NSEC's program takes this one step further and provides an additional summer where teachers develop teaching units to introduce nanotechnology in pre-college classrooms. In this way, the hands-on research educates and informs curriculum development.

Teachers also have opportunities to present their teaching units to other teachers at local, regional, and national conferences. Participants in this program teach at schools around the Chicago area, many from inner-city schools with large diverse populations. Through this program, the wonder and possibilities of nanoscience are made real first to the teachers, and then to their students – the scientists and engineers of tomorrow.



Jennifer Clery, a teacher at Evanston Township High School injecting DNA sample into HPLC for purification as part of her research project in the NU-NSEC 2002 RET program.