Beyond the Terminator: Liquid Metals, Stretchable Electronics and Shape Changing Materials

Michael Dickey, Camille and Henry Dreyfus Professor in the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, came to NC State in 2008. As a professor, he is known for his dedication to student recruitment and advising, as well as research initiatives.

Dickey received the Outstanding Teaching Award, a reflection of his exceptional teaching evaluations. Students report that he expresses genuine care for their success, both in his classroom and in their professional lives by providing extra help with networking and job searching. In addition to teaching, he involves undergraduates in his laboratory, where he also mentors graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. He founded the Future Leaders in Chemical Engineering symposium, at which the best undergraduate research in the country is presented.

He also serves the University community at large. He has been a member of numerous committees, including Provost’s Holladay Medal Committee, NNF Advisory Board and Undergraduate Research Advisory Board. He has served the College by participating in teaching peer reviews, judging student presentations and recruiting for the graduate school.

In research, Dickey has collaborated with 30 different faculty members at NC State. Over the past three years, he has published or submitted 100 peer-reviewed papers. His most significant contribution to his field is his work on liquid metals based on gallium. He is viewed as an international expert in his field. Dickey has been invited to speak at various universities and TEDx, in addition to being featured in prominent publications such as Physics Today and Advanced Materials.

Since 2018, he has received the Distinguished Leadership and Contributions to Scientific Research Award from Sigma Xi and the American Chemical Society Distinguished Speaker of the Year from the North Carolina chapter. In recognition of his commitment to fostering undergraduate research, the eponymous Outstanding Research Mentor Award was named after him, and he received the inaugural award in 2020. He was also selected to the Defense Science Study Group.