

Robert D. Mathieu, Ph.D.

Albert E. Whitford Professor of Astronomy and
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Robert Mathieu is the Albert E. Whitford Professor of Astronomy at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He received his A.B. from Princeton University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. After a postdoctoral position at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, in 1987 he joined the University of Wisconsin - Madison faculty. He and his students have discovered the youngest binary stars, described the flow of matter from protoplanetary disks onto these stars, measured angular momentum evolution within binary systems, determined the first masses of brown dwarf stars, observed the dynamical interactions between binary stars that power the evolution of star clusters, and most recently defined new evolutionary pathways of stars in binaries during these interactions. His astronomical research has been recognized over the course of his career, for example by a Presidential Young Investigator award, a Guggenheim Fellowship and as an American Association for the Advancement Fellow. Mathieu has served on numerous national and international science advisory committees, and as President of the Board of Directors of the WIYN Observatory.

Drawing on his career as an astronomer, Mathieu has been a leading voice emphasizing that transformation of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) undergraduate teaching and learning is best situated within the research practices of the STEM disciplines. Mathieu is the founding director of the Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL). CIRTL targets graduate and post-doctoral preparation as a powerful leverage point to prepare the next generation of faculty across all of higher education with the knowledge and skills to advance STEM undergraduate learning. Today CIRTL is a national network of 40 major graduate universities, all working together to shape the future national STEM faculty. Through the NSF Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (INCLUDES) initiative and building from CIRTL, Mathieu is co-leading a new initiative with the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities that develops both future and current STEM faculty to be inclusive teachers, mentors and advisors.

Mathieu has served in many leadership roles at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Currently he directs the Wisconsin Center for Education Research (WCER) and is the associate dean for research in university's school of education. WCER is a research center with an annual budget of \$70M and a staff of more than 500 people spanning pre-K to workforce to informal education. Particular emphases of WCER are success of underrepresented learners and advancing STEM learning across all ages.

Mathieu was also recently named as a Fulbright U.S. Scholar for a semester in Chile.