

1116-05-1098 **Michael Ferrara*** (michael.ferrara@ucdenver.edu). *The Rocky Mountain - Great Plains Graduate Research Workshop in Combinatorics: An Overview.*

The Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Graduate Research Workshop in Combinatorics (GRWC) is a multi-institutional program of annual research workshops co-organized by faculty from the University of Colorado Denver, Iowa State University, the University of Denver, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Wyoming.

The GRWC aims to (a) provide an intensive collaborative research opportunity for graduate students in combinatorics and related fields, (b) provide high quality mentoring and professional development for participating students and postdocs, and (c) help students build a professional network of peers in their broad research area.

The first GRWC was co-hosted by the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Denver in summer 2014 and the second was hosted by Iowa State University in June 2015. Together, they involved over 70 graduate students and 10 postdocs from 20 institutions and have generated 10 research papers, with several more in preparation.

This talk will discuss the GRWC model, which is centered on students developing and presenting open problems with guidance from faculty and postdocs. We will also give an overview of the GRWC's professional development programs and networking opportunities and summarize participant feedback. (Received September 16, 2015)