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TERC recently welcomed a new senior researcher, Dr. Bruce Jackson, for a one year appointment. Dr. Jackson comes to TERC from Boston University School of Medicine, where he heads several projects, including The Roots Project, and the environmental science and research training project RIMES. He is also involved with mentoring non-traditional students, helping them move from high school to two-year and four-year colleges and Ph. D. programs.

Dr. Jackson brings his wealth of contacts and his unique experience in graduate and pre-college science education to TERC. Said TERC president Dennis Bartels, "Dr. Jackson is an important key in our search for a seamless educational experience for students from kindergarten to graduate school. Dr. Jackson's main contributions will reflect his interests in the biological sciences and in improving science education for students underrepresented in the discipline, and we anticipate that new lines of work focused in these areas will live on at TERC beyond his one year appointment."

Through The Roots Project Dr. Jackson has been collecting DNA samples from African-American and Caribbean people of African ancestry to trace DNA from these groups back to the West African ethnic groups that were the source of slaves. The RIMES project's goal is to markedly increase the number of underrepresented minorities and women investigators in the environmental sciences.

Dr. Jackson received his Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from the University of Houston; his Master of Science degree in Genetics from the University of California, Davis; his Master of Science in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Brandeis and his Doctorate in Biochemistry from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. He did his post-doctoral training at Boston University School of Medicine and was appointed to the faculty there in 1993. He also received an appointment as Head of the Biotechnology Programs at Massachusetts Bay Community College in 1993. In the ensuing nine years the Biotechnology Program under Dr. Jackson became the preeminent undergraduate science program in the nation, and was recognized in 2001 by the White House.