

## **AACT Rover Project 2025**

The project will provide pre-college hands-on-training by supporting a team from the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT) high school, which will be competing in NASA's Human Exploration Rover Challenge (HERC) for the 14<sup>th</sup> time in 2025. The NASA HERC is an ongoing student competition held annually at the US Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, AL. The competition challenges teams of students to design and build a human powered (e.g. pedal powered) rover capable of traversing an exoplanetary-like landscape while also conducting several science experiments. The project will provide financial, logistical and mentorship support for AACT. A pair of AACT alumni, now enrolled as undergraduate students at UNR's Mechanical Engineering program, will be mentoring the high school students with additional guidance provided by Dr. Eric Wang, also from the ME Department.

### **Biosketch**

Dr. Eric Wang, Associate Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department at UNR began overseeing the AACT Rover project in 2018 and first attended the Rover Challenge in April 2019. Dr. Wang was instantly addicted to the Rover Challenge and has continued to mentor the AACT team ever since.