



Western Consortium of Idaho, Nevada, and New Mexico

Desert Research Institute University of Nevada, Reno

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### **Nevada higher education to hold two-day climate change workshop**

LAS VEGAS – Scientists from the Nevada System of Higher Education will participate in a climate change workshop March 27 and 28 at the UNLV Student Union.

The workshop is hosted by Nevada’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and will focus on how scientists and policy makers can work together to accommodate climate change in their future planning and research initiatives. Nevada’s EPSCoR program is a collaboration between the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, the Desert Research Institute, and the University of Nevada, Reno with the overall goal to improve Nevada’s research efforts. Representatives from the New Mexico and Idaho EPSCoR programs will be participating. The three states joined programs forming a consortium of EPSCoR states with similar research agendas related to climate change and water resources. The consortium model significantly increases opportunities for scientific collaboration and enhances each state’s ability to secure competitive funding and tackle complex climate change research agendas.

*“This workshop will not only engage and inform stakeholders on Nevada’s new climate change science initiatives, but most importantly, it will provide the venue for building collaborations between Nevada’s stakeholders and scientists,”* said Dr. Gayle Dana, DRI associate research professor and state EPSCoR director.

The media is invited to attend March 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. during the plenary sessions. Invited guest speakers include:

- Patricia Mulroy, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority and Las Vegas Valley Water District who will speak from 10:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Henry Gholz, director of the National Science Foundation who will discuss how to engage communities in both areas of science and research from 11:00 am to 11:45 am.
- Students, scientists and community stakeholders are leading a poster session where participants will present their research and outreach activities. The poster session is from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

In addition, the workshop will focus on assessment, adaptation, and communication in accordance with education, management, and policy in relation to climate change. For the past five years, annual EPSCoR conferences have been made possible from a \$15-million grant from the National Science Foundation to help fund science, education, and outreach under NSHE's educational system to help study climate change and its effects in Nevada.

Attendee Todd Hopkins, Science Coordinator for the Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC), says the time is now to continue these discussions about climate change. *"Our future cannot be our past restored – if we take that approach we'll always be behind the curve of climate change,"* Hopkins said. *"We need to embrace the uncertainty of our future, quit using procedures that predict and plan, and start using processes that anticipate and adapt."*

*"Researchers at the Nevada System of Higher Education have made great strides in strengthening Nevada's expertise and contributions to the nation in climate change science and education,"* Dr. Dana said. *"Such collaborations are essential for informing stakeholder decision making with the newest in climate change science."*

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**About The Nevada System of Higher Education:** The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) is comprised of two doctoral-granting universities, a state college, four comprehensive community colleges and one environmental research institute. NSHE, governed by the Nevada Board of Regents, serves the educational and job training needs of Nevada, the 15th fastest growing state in the nation, and provides educational opportunities to more than 105,000 students. For more information regarding NSHE please visit: <http://www.nevada.edu>

**About the Nevada Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR):** The goal of Nevada EPSCoR is to support collaborative research partnerships between higher education institutions and private industries to create long-term improvements in scientific research and infrastructures, strengthening our research and development capacity in Nevada and at a national level. Nevada EPSCoR programs enhance graduate education, stimulate undergraduate student research, and promote the involvement of women and underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. For more information on Nevada EPSCoR please visit: <http://www.nevada.edu/epscor/>

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