

**NSF EPSCoR**

**EPSCoR NEVADA SEEKS BUSINESSES, WANTS TO FUND INTERNSHIPS  
EPSCoR NEVADA TO PROVIDE FUNDING, BUSINESSES TO PROVIDE INTERNSHIPS**

STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) jobs are growing at 1.7 times the rate of non-STEM jobs, the Department of Commerce estimates, but the United States is not producing enough candidates to fill them. In fact, only 16 percent of high school students are interested in pursuing STEM careers, according to the Department of Education.

Locally and statewide, EPSCoR Nevada is working to fill



Dr. Yfantis and Dr. Boehm of UNLV teach students at UNLV about solar energy on the roof of the Thomas Beam Engineering Building.

that gap. Nevada EPSCoR is seeking Nevada based STEM companies to provide funding for three STEM internships annually for the next three years. (NSHE provides funding, the company provides the internship).

Funded as part of the Nevada System of Higher Education’s Solar Nexus Project, a five-year research project that aims to help Nevada establish itself as a competitive state in the field of solar nexus research, Nevada’s EPSCoR work developing a qualified STEM workforce is even bigger than the project itself.

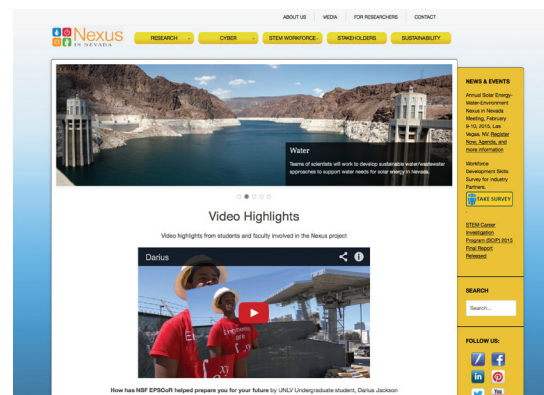
Interested businesses may contact Lori Brazfield, director of System Sponsored Programs and Nevada EPSCoR Office, at [lori\\_brazfield@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:lori_brazfield@nshe.nevada.edu).

Nevada EPSCoR can fund up to \$10,000 total. Companies receiving funding may choose whether the internship they provide is a part-time academic year or a full-time summer internship.

**VIDEOS ON NEXUS WEBSITE**

Last March a video was shot highlighting Nevada EPSCoR and the Solar Nexus project and the impact this research project will have on the state. Over the next several months we will be posting video clips of interviews with student and faculty involved with the project.

Be sure to visit [www.nvsolarnexus.org](http://www.nvsolarnexus.org) and share the videos with your friends and colleagues.



**TECHNICAL WRITING HELP AVAILABLE**

Nevada’s NSF EPSCoR Track-1 program provides funding to provide technical assistance for proposal and manuscript preparation for all NSHE faculty to promote competitive attainment of follow-on funding to current Track-1 research efforts.

Please see <http://nvsolarnexus.org/> for a description of Track-1 research areas.

We have received feedback from those who have used the technical writing assistance service and encourage others to use it. One recent user was able to get help on a proposal for a \$150,000 two-year project, which was successfully funded..

For more information visit <http://nvsolarnexus.org/technical-assistance-for-proposal-writing/>.

## NORTHERN, SOUTHERN NEVADA STUDENTS AWARDED FALL SCHOLARSHIPS STUDENTS WILL PARTAKE IN THE FALL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Nine students from Northern Nevada colleges and nine from Southern Nevada were recently awarded undergraduate scholarships for the Fall Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) by the education outreach team for the Nevada System of Higher Education's (NSHE) "The Solar-Energy-Water-Environment Nexus in Nevada" project (Solar Nexus project).

The program provides recipients with an opportunity to conduct hands-on research and engage with a college faculty mentor and a co-mentor at a university or research institute. Most recipients will work on an aspect of the Solar Nexus project, a five-year (June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2018) research project focusing on solar energy generation and its impacts on the nexus – or linkages – among Nevada's limited water resources and fragile environment. The focus of the Solar Nexus project is to create a center of research excellence on solar energy conversion to electricity, minimizing its negative impacts on water usage and the environment.

This year, 66 applications were received (33 from UNLV, 31 from UNR, 1 from CSN and 1 from NSC students) and 18 recipients were chosen by a faculty review panel. UNLV and UNR each had nine successful scholarship recipients. The undergraduate students represented 61 percent male and 38 percent female and overall 66 percent of the recipients are underrepresented minorities in STEM disciplines.

At the completion of the fall research project, each student will present a poster at a undergraduate research symposium to be held at campuses in Reno and Las Vegas in Spring 2015. Students from throughout Nevada were selected to take part in the program, which will take place at several NSHE institutions.

The scholarships were awarded through the National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) as part of the Solar Nexus project. Students who earned the scholarships include:

### Southern Nevada (UNLV):

Summer Asmat (Mentor: Kelly Ai-Sun Tseng)  
Michael Briones (Mentor: Ernesto Abel-Santos)  
Carolyn Chang (Mentor: Penny Amy)  
Tatiana Ermi (Mentor: Eduardo Robleto)  
Haley Heers (Mentor: Dong-Chan Lee)  
Arielle Homayouni (Mentor: Jeffery Shen)  
Deborah Morales (Mentor: Ganqing Jiang)  
Casey Steward (Mentor: Jefferson Kinney)  
Durin Uddin (Mentor: Nora B. Caberoy)

### Northern Nevada (UNR):

Syed Abbas (Mentor: Ravi Subramanian)  
Jordan Dargert (Mentor: Andrew Geraci)  
Sunggu Kang (Mentor: Ronald Pardini)  
Joseph Knue (Mentor: Yatavelli Laxmi Reddy)  
Haeram Lee (Mentor: Grant Mastic)  
Danielle Medygyesi (Mentors: Jeff Angermann and Heather Holmes)  
Pablo Ochoa (Mentor: Ben King)  
Kevin So (Mentor: Pedro Miura)  
Kehley Grosulak (Mentor: Ravi Subramanian)

## NASA EPSCoR AND SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM NEVADA NEWSMAKERS

On Tuesday, October 14, Lori Brazfield, MBA, director of the Systems Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR office was interviewed by Sam Shad of the statewide news program "Nevada Newsmakers." Brazfield discussed the recent \$500,000 grant awarded through the Nevada-NASA Space Grant Consortium.

Watch the full interview here: <http://www.nevadanewsmakers.com/video/default.asp?showID=2001>.

## NASA CAN SOLICITATION PREPROPOSALS DUE DECEMBER 22

Nevada NASA EPSCoR anticipates that the federal CAN release date will occur this Spring. We are beginning the pre proposal stage at this time to allow for sufficient time to develop a strong proposal from Nevada. The preproposal due date is December 22, 2014.

Each funded NASA EPSCoR proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities NASA's National program and/or one or more of the ten NASA Field Centers Mission Directorates or the OCT and contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science, and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the State. For more information and to view the NASA CAN solicitation in its entirety visit, <http://epscorspo.nevada.edu/solicitations/2014/LOIPREPROPOSALGUIDELINESCAN.pdf>.



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