



(Photo from: Nevada NSF EPSCoR Economic impact video)

## Solar energy research puts Nevada on the map

NSF EPSCoR Track 1

This economic impact video ([Linked Here](#)) addresses EPSCoR's role in our state through projects like The Solar-Energy-Water-Environment Nexus in Nevada. This is a five-year research project focusing on collecting solar energy and utilizing our state's most plentiful resource in a way that produces affordable electricity with minimal impact on water usage and the environment.

With ongoing support, Nevada EPSCoR and the Solar Nexus project will deliver solid economic benefits for years to come and shine a light on Nevada as a national and international leader in environmentally friendly solar energy production.

## Sun power visits Nevada high schools

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On April 26, 2014 Nexus Science Co-Principal Investigators, Dr. Bob Boehm and Dr. Jaci Batista, showcased the Nexus solar lab kits at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Rebel STEM Academy. UNLV engineering undergraduate students worked with Boehm and Batista to implement mini solar panel labs to Title I high school students and teachers during the event. Nevada high schools will start using the solar kits next year. The kits will help engage the students in a solar themed laboratory and promote the possibility of pursuing an engineering degree.



Solar panels located at the UNLV Solar Solution Center. (Lori Brazfield/NSHE)

## Nevada undergraduate research symposium

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Undergraduate students from the University of Nevada, Reno, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Sierra Nevada College showcased their research at the Nevada Undergraduate Research Symposium. The annual symposium gives students a platform to highlight the research conducted by undergraduates. Eighty-three students participated in the symposium, making it the largest symposium to date. NSF EPSCoR and the Nexus project funded 14 of the 83 students this year.



Students highlight their research at this year's symposium. (Kurt Regner/UNLV)

## Tri-state snow day

*NSF EPSCoR Track 2*

Western Consortium for Watershed Analysis, Visualization and Exploration is a collaborative research project with participants from Nevada, Idaho, and New Mexico. As part of the annual winter tri-state meeting, watershed science and cyber infrastructure teams attended a snow camp at the Dry Creek Experimental Watershed outside of Boise, ID. Participants designed and implemented a field campaign to estimate the volume of water stored as snow. Students received assistance on research topics and developing dissertation from consortium faculty.



Students & faculty gather at Dry Creek Experimental Watershed outside of Boise, ID. (Mark Stone/UNM)

To receive periodic announcements about funding opportunities and programs related to various Nevada System of Higher Education agencies. Sign up for SSPO and EPSCoR updates.

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[www.epscorspo.nevada.edu](http://www.epscorspo.nevada.edu)

## Undergraduate Visualization and Modeling Network

*NSF EPSCoR Track 2*

The Undergraduate Visualization and Modeling Network (UVMN) will provide professional development for instructors and students in environmental and earth sciences, from primarily undergraduate institutions in the three consortium states: Nevada, Idaho and New Mexico. The UVMN provides an opportunity to engage diverse students in undergraduate research and cyber infrastructure enabled education. The first UVMN workshop will take place in Albuquerque, NM May 29-31, 2014, at The University of New Mexico.

### Nevada students will help NASA robots

*NASA EPSCoR*

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) professor, Dr. George Bebis, will be sending three UNR students to NASA thanks to funding from NASA EPSCoR. Both David Frank and Josh Curtis will intern at NASA Ames and work with Drs. Ara Nefian and Terry Fong within the Intelligent Robotics Group. Frank and Curtis will be working on very large scale orbital imagery for rover localization using 2D images and 3D maps. Shubham Gogna will intern at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory and work with Dr. Gabriel Udomkesmalee within the Autonomous Systems Division. Gonga will help design and experiment with the mobility and robotics platform. The students will benefit greatly from this experience by gaining both knowledge and workforce skills for the future.

## Nevada school district sends team to Rover Challenge

*Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium*

Thanks to funding from the Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium, Washoe County School District's Career and Technical Education program (CTE) participated in the Rover Challenge. The challenge is a nationwide competition. Along with being entertaining, the challenge is successful in recruiting students into higher-education STEM disciplines. The challenge also educates teachers in best practices for the district's academies and CTE programs. According to research conducted, there was a significant and measurable rise related to interest in math for students that participated.



Students proudly display their Rover Challenge entry. (Dan Ruby/Fleischmann Planetarium and Science Center/UNR)

## Institute for Increasing Undergraduate Research at Nevada System of Higher Education

*NSF EPSCoR Track 1*

The two-day Institute for Increasing Undergraduate Research, which is sponsored by the Nexus project, will be held September 26 - 27, 2014 at Truckee Meadows Community College. Representatives from each of the NSHE institutions will be invited to participate in this event to discuss and develop action items that will further foster the undergraduate research environment, primarily in STEM disciplines. The institute is supported and managed by NSHE. For more information contact Michele Casella at [michele\\_casella@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:michele_casella@nshe.nevada.edu).

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