

**NSF EPSCoR**

**YANG JOINS THE NEXUS PROJECT TEAM**



Dr. Lei Yang an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, recently joined the Nexus project as the new data mining faculty. As part of the project team he will be responsible for processing and analyzing the data collected over the last few years regarding the correlation between water usage and solar energy. Prior to joining UNR, he was an assistant research professor with the School of Electrical Computer and Energy Engineering at Arizona State University. Before that, he was a postdoctoral scholar at Princeton University and Arizona State University. He received the Best Paper Award Runner-up of IEEE INFOCOM 2014 (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers International Conference on Computer Communications).

Dr. Yang was recently awarded funding through the Office of Science of the Department of Energy through its 2016 Early Career Research Program. He will use the funding and his fundamental understanding of systematic exploitation of big data processing for large-scale datasets to improve the fidelity and predictability of the Department of Energy-relevant complex systems.

**NSF EPSCoR**

**NEXUS YEAR 3 ACADEMIC YEAR UROP AWARDEES**

In its third year, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) received a noteworthy 87 applications from students throughout the state – including students from the state college and university levels – interested in participating in intensive research experiences. The program was created to enhance the recruitment and retention of undergraduates in STEM disciplines, especially those related to solar energy and its effects on water resources and the environment.

For this academic year, 20 students were awarded; 15 upper division and five lower division. Of the awardees, three students attend Nevada State College, four attend University of Nevada, Las Vegas and 13 attend University of Nevada, Reno. And, of the group, 12 of the students are female. It's also worth noting that seven of the 20 awardees attended the Nexus hosted application writing workshops, which were created to help students be more successful in the application process.

Congratulations to the 2015-2016 Academic Year UROP Awardees!

**LOWER DIVISION**

- Yesenia Cuenca, UNLV
- Molly Doyen, UNR
- Alexi Kibbe, NSC
- Devon Payne, UNLV
- Mateusz Podzorski, UNR

**UPPPER DIVISION**

- Raghavi Anand, UNR
- Katherine Ariza, NSC
- Michelle Chiu, UNLV
- Andrea Fink-Arnold, NSC
- Vincente Willy Gapuz, UNR
- Jonathan Heywood, UNR
- Suzhe Ji, UNR
- Adam Kiro Singh, UNR
- Taylor Loeffler, UNLV
- Shahil Pema, UNR
- Brandon Rasmussen, UNR
- Josue Regalado, UNR
- Melissa Sieffert, UNR
- Williams Struble, UNR
- Bonnie Wood, UNR



## NASA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT WINS NATIONAL DESIGN CONTEST



Joshua Adams, Nevada NASA Space Grant scholarship recipient and a recent transfer student from the College of Southern Nevada to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, is the winner of the national NASA Space Grant Ballooning Project logo contest. The logo will be used to identify the project that will take place all over the country on August 21, 2017.

The NASA Space Grant Ballooning Project will document the Great American Eclipse on the above date with the use of student conducted high altitude balloon (HAB) flights. Nine to 12 locations along the total eclipse path will be chosen from Oregon to South Carolina to document the event through live video and images captured by the balloons from near space and delivered to the NASA website for the public to view. This type of coverage of a total eclipse has only happened once before in Australia in 2012 and will prove to be a monumental moment for science as well as the students involved nationwide. In addition to branding the balloon project, Adams' winning logo design will be used on stamps nationwide during the 2017 total solar eclipse.



*"My goal was to keep the logo clean and simple, while incorporating key elements that define the event. My personal favorite part is the group of horizontal lines representing Earth's atmosphere, our 'thin blue line,'" Adams said.*

As well as being a budding research scientist and aspiring physicist, Adams is a well-known touring musician as well as a writer photographer and educational web series producer. Winning the logo contest is not only another great achievement for Adams, but an honor for Nevada. To learn more about the Eclipse Ballooning Project visit <http://eclipse.montana.edu/>.

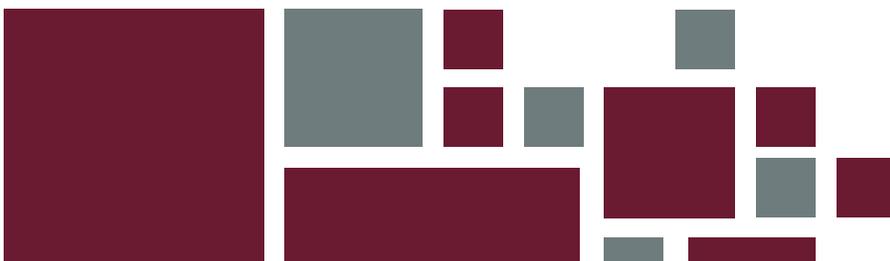
*"Though the importance of Space Grant funding is great, the opportunities and increased confidence as a result of being part of the project are priceless. As a recipient myself, the project motivates me to work harder to remain part of it and has unexpectedly provided me with a confidence that radiates through my academic record."--Joshua Adams*

---

## NASA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT HANNAH MASON, GREAT BASIN COLLEGE

When the Nevada Space Grant Consortium created its new program "A Community College Partnership Creating a Community of Practice Model to Engage and Retain Minority Students" it was with students like Hannah Mason in mind. Mason, an engineering science major at Great Basin College (GBC) was selected as a Fall 2015 scholarship recipient. While still in high school, Mason was enrolled in dual credit courses at GBC which enabled her to graduate a year early with the highest GPA in her graduating class and 45 college credits. With interest in quantum physics, astronomy, engineering, electric and computer science, Mason plans to continue her studies of engineering physics at the University of Nevada, Reno once she graduates with her associate's degree from GBC. Long term, Mason plans to earn her Ph.D in physics and work for NASA or a private space agency.

NSHE funded and led by the College of Southern Nevada, the program partners with Western Nevada College, Great Basin College and Truckee Meadows Community College to provide support to students studying science, ensuring they are successful in their educational endeavors. In addition to scholarships like the one awarded to Mason, the program provides community college students with individualized degree planning and weekly interdisciplinary biological and physical science study through interactive statewide virtual classrooms.



[epscorspo.nevada.edu](http://epscorspo.nevada.edu) | 702.522.7070  
Nevada System of Higher Education  
5550 W. Flamingo Road, Ste. A-2, Las Vegas, NV 89103