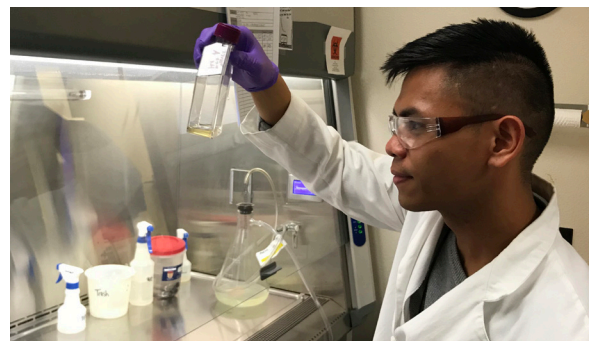


## NSF EPSCoR

### SUMMER 2019 UROP SCHOLARS

The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) promotes intensive undergraduate research opportunities for university students. Summer research scholarships were awarded to 13 undergraduate students across the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). Thirty-five students from NSHE campuses applied to the UROP, funded by the Solar Energy-Water-Environment Nexus in Nevada project, sponsored by NSF EPSCoR, IIA-1301726. The awardees conducted 10-week summer research projects under the guidance of NSHE research faculty mentors.

Congratulations to the following students and their mentors:



2017-2018 UROP student Jeremy Vergara, Nevada State College in the chemistry lab. Photo by Dr. Amber Howerton, Mentor

#### Nevada State College

- » Carlos Arambula-Quintero, *Novel Synthetic Route For Rhodamine and Rosamine Fluorophores*, Mentor: Zachary Woydziak
- » Nicole Benson, *Fluorinated Dipyrrinones: Synthesizing a Library of Fluorescent pH Probes to Characterize Environmental Alkaliphiles*, Mentor: Zachary Woydziak
- » Ryan Buenaventura, *Effect of Inosine Hydrolase on Bacillus species Spore Germination*, Mentor: Amber Howerton
- » Melanie Croft, *Invisible Biodiversity of the Mojave Desert: Contribution of Biotic Crusts*, Mentor: Jennifer Edmonds

#### University of Nevada, Las Vegas

- » Morgan Arias, *Variation in leaf vein architecture across elevation within the hyper-variable woody genus Metrosideros on O'ahu*, Mentor: Elizabeth Stacy
- » Si Chen, *Synthesis and Characterization of Room Temperature Liquid-Crystalline and Light Emitting Properties of Banana-Shaped Azomethine Compound*, Mentors: Pradip Bhowmik and Haesook Han
- » Jonathan Covington, *Probing the role of "Planoflexus" in plant matter degradation in geothermal springs*, Mentor: Brian Hedlund
- » Dylan Durkee, *Investigating semiconductor-to-metallic transition and superconductivity in Manganese Disulfide*, Mentor: Ashkan Salamat
- » Sandy Haneefzai, *Gene Involved in Rice Drought Tolerance*, Mentor: Jeffrey Shen
- » Karlana Tyburski, *Investigation of Perchlorate and Co-contaminant Reduction Using Zero Valent Iron*, Mentor: Jacimaria Batista

#### University of Nevada, Reno

- » Crissey Cameron, *Rational Design of Enterococcus faecalis GBAP Analogs for Further Enhancement of Quorum Sensing Inhibition and Activation, and Protease Stability*, Mentor: Yftah Tal-Gan
- » Harold Murga, *Understanding the role of bHLH transcription factors in the regulation of suberin biosynthesis and deposition in Arabidopsis thaliana*, Mentor: Dylan Kosma
- » Alexandria Kilgore-Gomez, *Predictive factors of poor working memory performance in mild TBI and the role of working memory encoding*, Mentor: Marian Berryhill

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020 UROP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Scholarship Amount: \$4,000 for students and \$750 in supplies for mentors

Application Deadline: Friday, October 4, 2019

Research Period: December 1, 2019 – May 31, 2020

Learn more and apply at: <https://bit.ly/2kV3VCD>

# NASA EPSCoR

## STIMULI 2018-19

Nevada NASA EPSCoR was recently featured in the latest edition of Stimuli 2018-19. *Stimuli* is a summary collection of college and university basic research and technology development reports impacting NASA's earth science, aviation, and human and robotic deep space exploration programs. This document addresses research which is relevant to NASA's mission, and currently administered by the agency's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research. The highlights for Nevada start on page 80. Download the publication at: <https://bit.ly/2kpvOT9>.



## SIDDHARTHA PATHAK (UNR) AWARDED NASA FUNDING

Assistant Professor Siddhartha Pathak at the University of Nevada, Reno has been awarded NASA funding in response to the research announcement "Use of the NASA Physical Sciences Informatics System – Appendix E," which solicited proposals from established researchers and graduate students. Read more at: <https://bit.ly/2lZyoQe>



**Project Title:** *Understanding the Local Structure-Property Relationships of Solders in Terrestrial vs. Microgravity Environments*

**Amount:** \$200,000 for 2 years

## WELCOME

### MARK CAHILL, POST AWARD MANAGER



Mark Cahill joined the Nevada System of Higher Education System Sponsored Programs Office & EPSCoR in September 2019. As Post Award Manager, he is responsible for the post-award administration of grants and contracts. Prior to joining the Nevada System of Higher Education System, he worked 15 years for the College of Southern Nevada. Mark held a variety of Financial Services roles ranging from positions as an Accountant, Assistant Director and Interim Director of Purchasing, to the most recent position as the Finance Manager of the CSN Office of Sponsored Projects. Educational attainment includes a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from the University of North Carolina @ Greensboro, other technical training and certifications in various fields. Growing up in North Carolina seems like a distant memory, having lived in Las Vegas for over 25 years. When not at work, it's all about time with family and the dogs.

### LEEANN GRIFFIN, GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR



LeeAnn Griffin is the new Grants Administrator for the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR Office (SPO/EPSCoR). Prior to this, she handled the financials for UNLV's School of Music. She is not new to the University culture. She is a California native who worked her way up from Financial Assistant in Early Education Services to Supervisor of Financial Accounting and Reporting at the University of California, Santa Cruz before moving to Las Vegas two years ago. She lives with her husband, Kent, and her Doberman, Zoe; both of whom she adores. She is excited to continue to explore the diverse landscape around Mount Charleston and Lake Mead. LeeAnn graduated with a Masters in Business Administration and in her spare time runs a Notary Public business.



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