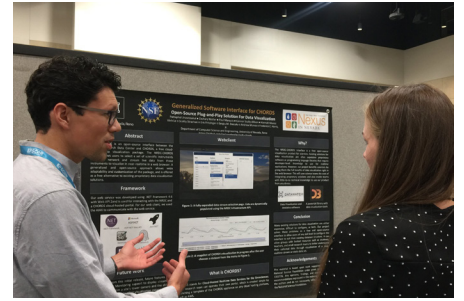
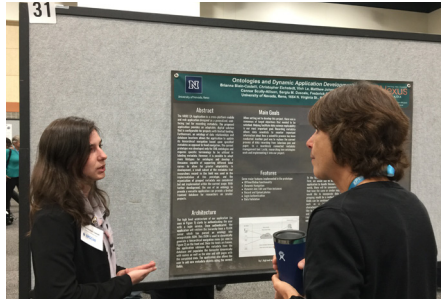
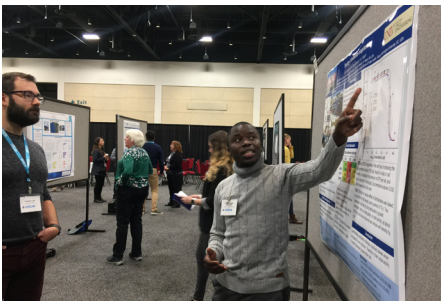


NSF EPSCoR

26TH NSF EPSCoR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Nevada NSF EPSCoR team attended the 26th National NSF EPSCoR Conference held in Columbia, SC, October 27-30. This biennial conference welcomed faculty, researchers, students and staff from EPSCoR jurisdictions around the country for enriching speakers, engaging breakout sessions and lively student poster presentations. The theme was Science and Partnerships Across Disciplinary Boundaries. Conference programming focused on the areas of transdisciplinary research, public-private partnerships, STEM partnerships, big data and conveying the importance of transdisciplinary research to a broader audience.



Pictured above from left to right: Nevada students George William Kajjumba, PhD (UNLV), Brianna Blain-Castelli, MS (UNR), and Andrew Munoz, MS (UNR) share their research at the 26th NSF EPSCoR National Conference in South Carolina. (Photo credit: Michele Casella)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020 UROP SCHOLARS

The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) promotes intensive undergraduate research opportunities for university students. Through these research experiences, our goal is to enhance the recruitment and retention of undergraduates in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines, particularly those related to solar energy and its effects on water resources and the environment in general.

Fifty-six students across the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) applied to the Academic Year 2019-2020 UROP, funded by the Solar Energy-Water-Environment Nexus in Nevada project, sponsored by NSF EPSCoR, IIA-1301726. A total of 25 research scholarships were awarded; 16 from the University of Nevada, Reno; 8 from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and 1 from Nevada State College. The awardees will be conducting their research projects from December 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020 under the guidance of NSHE research faculty mentors. For a complete list of awardees, visit the [NEXUS website](#).



ELISABETH HAUSRATH (UNLV) SELECTED TO SERVE ON MARS 2020 MISSION



Dr. Elisabeth Hausrath (UNLV) has recently been selected to serve as a participating scientist on the Mars 2020 mission. She will specifically be working with the rest of the science team to help select samples to be returned to Earth from Mars. The Mars 2020 rover mission is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program, a long-term effort of robotic exploration of

the Red Planet. The Mars 2020 mission addresses high-priority science goals for Mars exploration, including key questions about the potential for life on Mars. Congratulations Dr. Hausrath!

WESTERN NEVADA COLLEGE STUDENTS COLLABORATING WITH NASA

Dr. Elizabeth Tattersall (WNC) and her students who are participating in the NV Space Grant Community of Practice program are collaborating with NASA on an exciting asteroid detection project. NASA is setting up cameras all over the western U.S. to detect asteroid "fire balls". Dr. Tattersall and her students have acquired a camera and are in the process of correctly mounting it at the Jack C. Davis Observatory on the WNC campus. If a fireball is detected by their camera, they will be involved in trying to recover the remains of the fireball.



2020 NV NASA SPACE GRANT AND NASA EPSCoR STATEWIDE MEETING

The 2020 Nevada NASA Space Grant and NASA EPSCoR Statewide Meeting will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada on Friday, April 3, 2020 (full day meeting). More information will be available soon on the website.



WELCOME

KRISTEN KEETH, NSF EPSCoR RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR



Kristen Keeth joined the Nevada System of Higher Education Special Sponsored Programs office in October 2019. She is the NSF EPSCoR Project Administrator and is responsible for the reporting, budgeting, subawards, compliance and meetings. Kristen holds an MBA from Texas A&M University-Commerce and is currently completing a Master of Science in Advanced Data Analytics at University of North Texas. She is a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators and has worked in grants management and research administration for over a decade. Kristen enjoys traveling, data analytics, and reading.



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