

**FALL 2021**

## NSF AND NASA EPSCoR

### NEVADA REPRESENTATIVE SERVES IN NATIONAL EPSCoR/IDEA LEADERSHIP ROLE



The Coalition of EPSCoR/IDEA States provides leadership and advocacy at the national level for its membership of 25 states and three territories. With the support of Van Scoyoc Associates, a federal affairs agency, the Coalition works to address the continued opportunity to promote the importance of a vibrant, nationwide science and technology enterprise and to bolster federal research and development grants to underfunded states, including Nevada.

[Mridul Gautam, Ph.D.](#), Vice President for Research and Innovation and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno, was appointed to the Coalition's Board of Directors in 2014. In 2021, Dr. Gautam's peers elected him to serve as Chair of the Coalition's Board of Directors and its executive committee, further strengthening Nevada's voice and representation in national discussions. Dr. Gautam continues in this role into 2023.

"It's an important and dynamic time for the Coalition of EPSCoR/IDEA States," said Dr. Gautam. "National and international matters are prompting new interest in the role of science and technology as foundations for our country's health, sustainability and place in the world. This is a time for vision and advocacy at the federal level. Our nation has built impressive research strengths centered in certain regions, and we now have the opportunity to take this nationwide with strengthened research expertise and infrastructure in every state."

"[Dr. Gautam's] dedication to ensuring strong, successful EPSCoR/IDEA programs will continue to help our community seize new opportunities and meet challenges head on," said Stu Van Scoyoc, President & CEO of Van Scoyoc Associates. The EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation is a national non-profit that promotes the science and technology enterprise through improving university research infrastructure and increasing research competitiveness among historically underfunded states. This work happens within a complicated landscape involving six federal agencies that award research funding. The EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation and the Coalition of EPSCoR/IDEA States are separate organizations, but close collaborators. The Coalition might be described as the Foundation's eyes and ears within the states.

"[The Coalition] helps us collect the best data possible and communicate impact," said Jessica Molesworth, Executive Director of the EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation. "We want these programs to be as beneficial as possible and we want them to be working as well as possible. Understanding what is being accomplished in the [EPSCoR/IDEA] states allows us to determine priorities and funding targets, and develop effective, consistent promotion. The EPSCoR/IDEA Coalition Board of Directors has a dynamic chair in Mridul Gautam," said Molesworth. "Dr. Gautam will undoubtedly lead the Coalition to new heights. The EPSCoR/IDEA Foundation appreciates working with Dr. Gautam and the Coalition on joint initiatives."

Dr. Gautam is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and a member of the National Academies' Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable, and he serves on additional boards and committees including the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Commission on Economic and Community Engagement. Under his leadership, Research & Innovation at the University of Nevada, Reno provides high quality services and infrastructure to enable faculty, students and staff to excel in their research, scholarly and creative endeavors and to advance innovation and commercialization. The division is committed to facilitating connections with industry and fostering regional entrepreneurship and collaboration through an innovative ecosystem, anchored by the Nevada Center for Applied Research and the University of Nevada, Reno Innovation Center.



# NASA EPSCoR

## 2022 NEVADA NASA SPACE GRANT AND NASA EPSCoR STATEWIDE MEETING

The 2022 Nevada NASA Space Grant and NASA EPSCoR Statewide Meeting will be held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on Friday, April 22, 2022. Please note it will be a hybrid meeting, both in-person and virtual. More information will be available soon on the [website](#).



# NASA EPSCoR

## CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NASA EPSCoR Programs just recently released the solicitations for the upcoming 2022-2023 cycle. Learn more about each of these opportunities on our [website](#), including webinar dates and other important information.

- 2022 Nevada NASA EPSCoR Research Cooperative Agreement Notice (R3 CAN): LOI Deadline - 01/10/22
- 2022 NASA EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Development Seed Grant: Deadline - 03/07/2022
- 2022-2023 NV NASA Space Grant Research Infrastructure: Deadline - 03/07/2022
- 2022-2023 Higher Education (HE): Curriculum Development (CD) and Hands-on-Training (HOT) Faculty Competition: Deadline - 03/14/2022
- 2022-2023 Pre-College Teacher Training (TT) and Hands-On-Training (HOT) Program: Deadline - 03/14/2022
- 2022-2023 NVSGC Graduate Research Opportunity Fellowship: Deadline - 03/21/2022
- 2022-2023 NVSGC Undergraduate Scholarship Program: Deadline - 03/28/2022

## WELCOME

### CHERONDA EVERETT, GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR



Cheronda Everett is the Grants Administrator for post awards within the System Sponsored Programs and EPSCoR Office. She joined the Nevada System of Higher Education in December 2021 after relocating to Las Vegas in July 2021. Prior to this role, she spent nine years working within grant sponsored departments (federal & state) as Program Coordinator, Project Manager/Research Associate, and Academic Advisor. Most recently, as Faculty, she had the opportunity to teach the next generation of government and nonprofit change agents at Northern Illinois University and Springfield College. In addition to working in higher education, Cheronda has experience working and volunteering at nonprofit organizations. Cheronda's education attainment crosses a variety of industries which she uses in both work and volunteer roles. She holds a: Bachelor of Science in Education from Northern Illinois University; Master of Science in Public Service Management from DePaul University's School of Public Service; and a Master of Science in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University.

### MICHAEL LUJAN, NASA PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Michael Lujan joined the Nevada System of Higher Education System Sponsored Programs Office & EPSCoR in September 2021 as the NASA Program Coordinator for the Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium (NVSGC) and NASA EPSCoR programs. In this role, he assists the Research Administrator and Project Director in implementing NASA EPSCoR and Space Grant program goals. Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Arizona and has broad knowledge of NASA programs from previously working on NASA's OSIRIS-REx Asteroid Sample Return Mission.



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