

NASA EPSCoR

WINTER 2022

FAREWELL TO DR. LYNN FENSTERMAKER



The Nevada EPSCoR community said a fond farewell to Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker in December 2022 upon her retirement from Desert Research Institute (DRI). Lynn became involved in Nevada EPSCoR programs through NSF, but her true love was always NASA. With a father who was an engineer, encouraging of all his daughters, he would fly them on his single engine plane. Thus, Lynn was always fond of aeronautics. She would get to fly drones in her field work as a remote scientist. In 2015, she became the Nevada Space Grant Consortium and Nevada NASA EPSCoR director.

Under Lynn's direction Nevada NASA programs grew in size and in number. The Nevada Space Grant and Research Infrastructure Development (RID) virtually doubled in size with a track record of success in competing for Rapid Response Research (RRR) projects.

"Lynn has provided consistent leadership within the NASA EPSCoR program and is a huge asset to Nevada NASA EPSCoR. She will be greatly missed. Lynn has grown the Nevada NASA EPSCoR program from just a few research awards to over 11 currently active Cooperative Agreements. Her personal touch during the EPSCoR meetings contributed significantly to being able to gain consensus/cooperation/trust from everyone involved and led to the successful outcomes of those meetings. Few jurisdiction directors can match her record of achievement and the entire NASA EPSCoR team wishes her continued success and happiness" said Jeppie Compton, National Project Manager for NASA EPSCoR.

Lynn was also a leader at the national level. She served in the NASA Space Grant Directors Executive Committed as well as the NASA Space Grant Foundation Committee. She met annually with the Nevada congressional delegation to highlight the importance of NASA programs in our state. Lynn was adamant about placing students at the forefront of the programs. If there was ever program savings, she would always opt to fund more student opportunities above all else. She would also spend hours late into the night reviewing proposals to give in depth feedback to junior faculty who applied to NASA opportunities.

We wish Lynn the best in her retirement. Her dedication, advocacy, and cheery demeanor will be greatly missed.

WELCOME DR. ERIC WILCOX



We are pleased to announce Dr. Eric Wilcox will take on the role of Project Director for the Nevada NASA Programs, while continuing his work at DRI, where he is a Research Professor of Atmospheric Science. As the Project Director, Dr. Wilcox, will align system-wide NASA EPSCoR program activities with state and national priorities in STEM research and education. These priorities will target research development, economic development and workforce development priorities for the state and NASA Directorates.

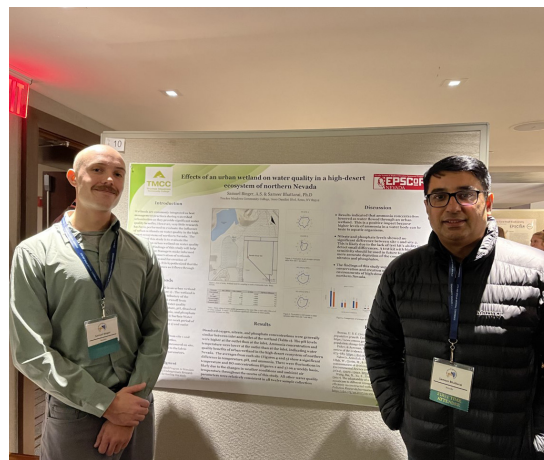
"Under the leadership of former project director, Dr. Lynn Fenstermaker, these programs have provided STEM education and NASA-related research opportunities for hundreds of students and dozens of faculty from across NSHE," said Dr. Eric Wilcox. "I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to continuing this legacy. I have spent much of my career as a scientist working at NASA, or as part of the broader community of academic researchers involved with NASA, and I am excited to serve in a role where I can grow the number of students and researchers in Nevada engaged with the NASA community."

Dr. Wilcox earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) and a Ph.D. in Oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD. Prior to joining DRI in 2010, Dr. Wilcox was a physical scientist in the Climate and Radiation Laboratory at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and a postdoctoral fellow at the NOAA Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory at Princeton University. His research addresses the interactions among aerosols, clouds, and precipitation towards a goal of improved understanding of precipitation, cloud variability and radiative forcing of climate at regional scales. This work relies on satellite and in-situ observations, as well as simulations with numerical models of the atmosphere and climate.

INAUGURAL NSF EPSCoR EOD CONFERENCE AND 27TH NATIONAL NSF EPSCoR CONFERENCE

Our NSF EPSCoR team was busy this past fall attending conferences. The inaugural 2022 NSF EPSCoR Education, Outreach, and Diversity (EOD) Conference was hosted by South Carolina EPSCoR in Isle of Palms, SC on September 11-14, 2022. This conference brought together individuals working with and managing EOD programs, individuals wanting to learn more about EOD best practices, and science communication professionals.

Nevada EPSCoR was also well represented at the 27th National NSF EPSCoR Conference hosted by Maine EPSCoR in Portland, ME on November 13-16, 2022. The conference focused on the theme of "Translating Stakeholder Needs into Impactful Research Outcomes", with interactive presentations on rising trends in science, research, and broadening participation. Pictured (left) is TMCC student Samuel Binger with mentor (right) Sameer Bhattarai, and their poster on "Effects of an urban wetland on water quality in a high-desert ecosystem of northern Nevada".



WELCOME

KEVIN ALTMAN, GEAR UP RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR



Kevin Altman joined our team as the GEAR UP Research Administrator in November 2022. His position provides pre-award/post-award research administrative support and programmatic oversight to projects that are awarded to NSHE from the Nevada Department of Education and other sponsors. Prior to joining NSHE, he spent 10 years at the College of Southern Nevada and 2 years with UNLV. Prior to higher education, Kevin served 5 years as a Human Resources Specialist with the U.S. Army.

CHELSIE MARTINEZ, GRANT ADMINISTRATOR



Chelsie Martinez joined our team as the Grant Administrator in December 2022. Beginning her career in the banking industry, Chelsie's career evolved into an even broader scope of financial experiences which led her into the realm of financial aid. She has worked for institutions such as California State University, San Bernardino and the College of Southern Nevada.

MAUREEN SACCOMANI, NSF RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR



Maureen Saccomani joined our team as the NSF Research Administrator in September 2022. In this role, she provides pre-award/post-award research administration and programmatic oversight to projects that are awarded to NSHE from NSF EPSCoR. Prior to this role, she spent over nine years working in the nonprofit sector in grant proposal development and grants management.

BROOKLYN STEPPO, NSF PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Brooklyn Stepro joined our team as the NSF Program Coordinator in September 2022. In this role, she assists with progress reporting and account management; scholarship competitions and the development and implementation of a student-mentorship program. Brooklyn received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and History from Kentucky Wesleyan College and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Nevada, Reno.