



NSF EPSCoR NSHE MENTORING INSTITUTE 2024

FALL 2024



The NSHE Mentoring Institute 2024 (MI2024): Building STEM Education, Research and Workforce Through Mentorship at Nevada Institutions of Higher Learning was hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada this past October 8-9, 2024, at the Embassy Suites. There were 40 faculty and administrators that participated across NSHE institutions. The Institute provided NSHE mentors with a forum to develop mentoring skills and for faculty to build capacity and networks in STEM education, research and workforce. The attendees were provided with intensive training, collaboration and an opportunity to interact and network with colleagues. As one of the participants mentioned, "the opportunity to network with professionals from various Nevada institutions was incredibly beneficial, as it opened doors for potential collaborations. I also appreciated the emphasis on fostering diversity and inclusion through mentorship, which provided valuable insights on how we can build more inclusive learning environments."



Attendees interact and network with colleagues across NSHE institutions at this year's Mentoring Institute. (Photo credit: Mayara Cueto-Diaz)

NSF EPSCoR NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Last month, the Nevada NSF EPSCoR team attended the 28th NSF EPSCoR National Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. The conference welcomed project researchers, students, and staff from EPSCoR jurisdictions, as well as NSF leadership, including Dr. Sandra Richardson, Section Head for the Research Capacity and Competitiveness Section at NSF, and Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan, NSF Director, who gave a motivational keynote speech on "Accelerating the Frontiers of Science and Technology Through Talent, Ideas and Innovation". The conference featured engaging speakers, breakout sessions student poster presentations, and a collaborative forum to connect and network.



The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan, NSF Director, highlighting the impact of NSF funding on EPSCoR jurisdictions. (Photo credit: Mayara Cueto-Diaz)

NASA EPSCoR

NEW GRANT TO PIONEER ROBOTICS RESEARCH FOR MOON AND MARS

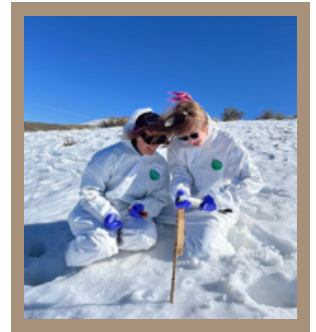


The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) was awarded a \$750K grant from NASA EPSCoR to develop a statewide network of groundbreaking robotics research aimed at advancing NASA's Moon-to-Mars objectives and paving the way for eventual deep space exploration. Over the next three years, this innovative project titled "Prospecting and Pre-Colonization of the Moon and Mars using Autonomous Robots with Human-in-the-Loop" will bring together scientists from the University of Nevada, Reno; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; Desert Research Institute; and NASA's Ames Research Center.

"We are thrilled that NASA has chosen to fund the Nevada team and their pioneering research. This work will not only advance NASA's missions but also foster significant technological development within Nevada and strengthen the collaborative relationship between NSHE researchers and the NASA Ames Research Center," said Eric Wilcox, Director of Nevada NASA EPSCoR. "This project exemplifies the innovative spirit of our state's research community and its potential to contribute to NASA's Moon to Mars exploration efforts."

NEVADA'S YOUTH ENGINEERING THE FUTURE OF NASA

The Student Partnerships and Collaboration for Engineering (SPACE) program addresses the need for a research-academic innovation pipeline by engaging undergraduate students to engineer mechanisms for remote payload collection and delivery systems for UASs used in environmental research. With support from the Research Infrastructure award from Nevada NASA EPSCoR as well as Nevada NASA Space Grant, a team of college students successfully designed, built, and tested the ROSE (Remote Operated Sample Extraction) prototype to collect snow samples from target areas to show if the cloud seeding was successful. Students learned to use software for technical design, machinery for fabrication, and iterations for design improvement. The culminating experience for the ROSE design team was testing the prototype in the field with researchers.



Researchers collecting snow samples (Photo Credit: Claire Parker)

WELCOME



MICHELLE LEE, GRANT ACCOUNTANT

Michelle Lee is the Grant Accountant for the Nevada System of Higher Education System Sponsored Programs office and EPSCoR. In this role, she supports the Post Award Manager with the post-award administration of grants and contracts, allocation of funding to NSHE campuses, and award maintenance. She coordinates functions of the post award unit closely with the various administrators and other staff. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and joined the Nevada System of Higher Education in June 2024.



ATHENA LEWIS, NSF PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Athena Lewis joined the Nevada System of Higher Education System sponsored Programs Office & EPSCoR as the NSF Program Coordinator. As program coordinator, Athena assists the Research Administrator with implementing NSF EPSCoR project goals. She assists the Educational Outreach and Diversity Administrator with program coordination, event/meeting planning, and maintaining NSF project websites and databases. Athena was born and raised in Las Vegas, Nevada. Before her role with NSHE, Athena received her Bachelor of Science in Human Services from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



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