



# NSF EPSCoR

**SPRING 2025**

## HDRFS 2025 ANNUAL MEETING



HDRFS participants gathered for the 2025 HDRFS Annual Meeting held in Reno, April 6-8, 2025. (Credit: Scotty Strachan)

This past April, approximately 80 researchers, students, and collaborators from the Nevada NSF EPSCoR RII-Track 1 Harnessing the Data Revolution for Fire Science (HDRFS) project gathered at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for the 2025 Annual Meeting. At the meeting, the panel presentations brought together the different components to discuss relevant topics necessary to advance the research, such as data management, field set-up, and mapping to modeling capabilities. Additionally, the meeting hosted a student poster session along with a graduate student workshop. For many, the highlight of the meeting was the field trip to the Red Rock Road 2 (RRR2) site, showcasing the infrastructure created for the field burns. Not only was the meeting successful in providing attendees with a first-hand look at the collaborative research efforts but also allowed participants time to network and plan for next year's activities.



Neil Lareau demoed his mobile LiDAR machine during the field site visit. (Credit: Mayara Cueto-Diaz)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO HDRFS 2025-2026 SEED GRANT AWARDEES!

We would like to congratulate the following NSHE faculty, who were selected to receive seed grant funding for their projects. These awards are funded through the NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1: Harnessing the Data Revolution for Fire Science (HDRFS) for one year at \$30,000 to provide additional research and sustainability in areas relevant to the HDRFS project.

- Marco Giordano, Assistant Research Professor, Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute
- Brittany Kruger, Associate Research Professor, Hydrologic Sciences, Desert Research Institute
- Hung (Jim) La, Associate Professor, Computer Science & Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno
- Ping Liu, Assistant Professor, Computer Science & Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno
- Kathleen Rodrigues, Assistant Research Professor, Earth and Ecosystem Sciences, Desert Research Institute
- Kristin Vandermolen, Assistant Research Professor, Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute
- Xiaoliang Wang, Research Professor, Atmospheric Sciences, Desert Research Institute
- Yu (Frank) Yang, Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno

# NASA EPSCoR

## NEVADA NASA PROGRAMS

### 2025 STATEWIDE MEETING

The Nevada NASA Programs held their statewide meeting on March 10 at the University of Nevada, Reno. Over 80 attendees participated from across NSHE, including faculty with active NASA research project awards, students who have received scholarships and fellowships through Space Grant funding, as well as affiliates and advocates of the programs.

The meeting included oral research presentations as well as a keynote talk by Allen Herbert, CEO of Space Terra Solutions, on the topic of Space Cancer Research. Furthermore, the meeting hosted a poster session for students to share their research and provided networking time to promote collaborations. Research abstracts and posters are available on the [statewide meeting page](#). Through their presentations, faculty and students expertly showcased the groundbreaking, NASA-supported research happening in our state.

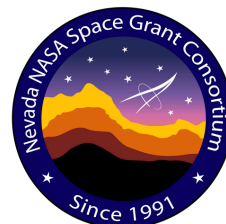


Over 80 faculty and students participated in the 2025 NASA Programs Statewide Meeting at UNR. (Credit: Darlene Aranda)

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## NSHE AWARDED \$3.4 MILLION NASA SPACE GRANT AWARD

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) has secured a \$3.4 million, four-year grant from NASA to strengthen science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education and research in Nevada. The Nevada Space Grant Consortium (NVSGC) will administer the grant, connecting students and faculty to NASA's mission and advancing workforce development across the state.



Dr. Eric Wilcox, Project Director for the Nevada Space Grant Consortium and Nevada NASA EPSCoR, said the award builds on years of successful collaboration. "NASA Space Grant is a vital element of achieving the STEM education and workforce development goals of NSHE, Nevada, and NASA," he said. "The program has supported authentic, faculty-mentored, hands-on experiences for hundreds of students across NSHE campuses and provided paid internships at NASA centers. We're grateful to continue this essential program and connect Nevada's students and faculty to NASA's facilities, datasets, and resources."

## WELCOME



### KARINA CEJA, NASA RESEARCH ADMINISTRATOR

Karina D. Ceja joined the Nevada System of Higher Education System Sponsored Programs Office & EPSCoR in March 2025 as the NASA Research Administrator. In this role, she provides administrative and budgetary support for the Space Grant and NASA EPSCoR programs. Karina previously served as a Grants Administrator for state and federal grants both in higher education and nonprofit capacity. She holds a BA in Communication-Media Studies from Nevada State University and is currently pursuing her MPA at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



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