

## **NASA EPSCoR AND NASA SPACE GRANT CONSORTIUM**

### **NASA GRANT TO FUND THE START OF A NEW EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM ACROSS FOUR CAMPUSES**

The Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) was awarded funding of \$500,000 through the Nevada-NASA Space Grant Consortium (NVSGC) for the creation of a new program that will change how Nevada’s community college students learn, all the while planting the seed for an education system that will help staff Nevada’s future space and science-related industries.

Titled “A Community College Partnership Creating a Community of Practice Model to Engage and Retain Minority Students,” the program will create a community of practice (CoP) at each campus involved in the program— College of Southern Nevada is leading the project coordination with Western Nevada College, Great Basin

College and Truckee Meadows Community College; the program will link each group to the others with monthly video conferences.

Starting in the spring of 2015, students will receive significant participant (scholarship) support, individualized degree planning and weekly interdisciplinary biological and physical science study and inquiry as they work towards Associate of Science degrees. Additionally, the grant is focused on encouraging and supporting women and minorities to work toward AS degrees and then moving toward 4-year and graduate degrees. This program will support faculty as they present science content in ways that impact student persistence and graduation attainment.



### **FAREWELL TO CHRIS FRITSEN, THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE**

Chris Fritsen, Ph.D has a storied history working with the NASA Space Grant which began in 1998 when he became a faculty coordinator for the Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium.

He moved through the ranks from campus associate director at DRI to eventually be appointed as interim director of the program in May 2005 and then was appointed director of Nevada NASA EPSCoR and Space Grant Consortium later that year.

Under his leadership for the past nine years, the NASA EPSCoR program grew its awards and has received over \$35 million since 2001. Nevada Space Grant Consortium tripled their programs from \$100,000 to nearly half a million per year. His efforts allowed for expanding opportunities for faculty and students to strengthen research capabilities and participate in aerospace and aerospace-related activities.

As project director, Chris has provided invaluable expertise and will continue to support the NASA programs in Nevada through his new role as DRI’s vice president of academic and faculty affairs. We wish him the best of luck and thank him for the footprint he left on the NASA EPSCoR and Space Grant Consortium programs.



### **STEPHANIE BORENE NAMED PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Stephanie Borene has joined the Nevada NASA Space Grant Consortium team as program coordinator. In her new position, she will assist in administering the current and future awards from NASA Space Grant. Stephanie has lived all over the country as part of a military family, is a UNLV graduate and has called Southern Nevada home for several years. We’re very excited to have her join the team.



Last Spring, 35 students participated in the SCIP program at UNR.

## SCIP PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN SOUTHERN NEVADA OCT. 16

The Stem Careers Investigation Program, better known as SCIP, kicks off its first six-week program in southern Nevada on Oct. 16 at UNLV. As part of the workforce development piece lead by Dr. Jacque Ewing-Taylor of the Solar Nexus project, SCIP introduces high school students to STEM careers and demystifies the stigma and stereotypes to encourage more students to pursue STEM related fields.

Last spring 35 students – 22 percent of which were underrepresented minorities and more than half of the group female – went through the program hosted at UNR and had the opportunity to engage with different faculty members and

learned about various science related areas including pollen researching, robotics, anatomy through dissection of body parts and more. This fall's program topics will include safe drinking water, alternative energy production, data visualization, the science of soil, and software development and game design. The southern program is being coordinated by Dr. David Vallett at UNLV.

## NSHE AND CUR HOSTED INSTITUTE FOR BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

On September 25-27 the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE), in collaboration with the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) hosted the Institute for Broadening Participation in Undergraduate Research at Truckee Meadows Community College. The three-day professional development workshop, attended by over 30 faculty from throughout the state, learned a new prospective on how to improve undergraduate research.



Over 30 faculty members throughout the state attended the CUR workshop at TMCC.



## ROBIN GONZALES NAMED PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Robin Gonzales has joined the Solar Nexus project as program coordinator. In his role he will assist with progress reporting, maintaining the project website, mentoring data base, and scholarship competition, event planning and more. An immigrant from the Philippines, Robin has lived in Nevada for six year and was a English and Political Science dual major and graduated Magna Cum Laude from UNLV.

## EPSCoR INFORMATION SESSIONS SCHEDULED OCT. 8 AND 15

Are you interested in learning more about Nevada EPSCoR and how to get involved with upcoming programs? This is your chance! Informational sessions will be held on Oct. 8 in Reno from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at DRI north and from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at UNR and Oct. 15 in Las Vegas from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at DRI south and 1:30 to 3 p.m. at UNLV. Each informational session will cover what EPSCoR is and how it fits across the Nevada System of Higher Education institutions, program goals, current programs, activities and collaborations and how the proposal process works for EPSCoR programs. Register by emailing your name and the location you will be attending to [nshespo@nshe.nevada.edu](mailto:nshespo@nshe.nevada.edu). Space is limited and registration is required.

