

## **EPSCoR State Committee Meeting**

08 June 2012 (10 am – 3:00 pm)  
NM EPSCoR State Office, Albuquerque

In attendance: Jack Jekowski, Julia Fulgham, Vimal Chaitanya, Kurt Steinhaus, Tony Sena, James Biggs, Linda LaGrange, Ron Tafoya, Faye Vowell, John Montgomery, Stephan Helgeson, Van Romero (by phone), Bill Michener, Mary Jo Daniel (note-taker)

Jack Jekowski welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda. He gave a brief report of his attendance at the National NSF EPSCoR meeting in Idaho. He will distribute his notes soon.

### **EPSCoR Program Update**

Bill Michener and Mary Jo Daniel summarized EPSCoR activities of the preceding six months for the Track 1, Track 2, C2 and Valles Caldera documentary awards. The Powerpoint will be available on the NM EPSCoR website.

### **Presentation of RII 4 (Track 1) Proposal Development**

Bill and Mary Jo reviewed the proposal development timeline and progress to date. There has been a high level of involvement by researchers and educators from around the state. Bill noted that the proposal due date is approximately one month earlier than anticipated—October 3. The AAAS review was completed in May; their written report has not been received, but their verbal report led to restructuring the planned proposal and modification of some components. The tentative title of the new project is "Energize New Mexico." Key components under development were reviewed. Based on feedback from the AAAS Review, the proposal has two major research thrusts with 3 components in each:

1. Resource Utilization
  - a. Bioalgal fuel production
  - b. Osmotic Power Production from Produced Waters (Oil and Gas)
  - c. Solar Energy Development
2. Sustainability
  - a. Uranium—focus on transport mechanisms and remediation
  - b. Geothermal—impacts of extraction activities on geothermal resources
  - c. Social/science nexus (decision support science/system dynamics modeling)

The proposal will also include seed funding and emerging areas, as required by the RFP: faculty start-ups, seed awards and interdisciplinary innovation working groups.

Researchers will be collaborating with the CI leads to develop a coherent Cyberinfrastructure component to support all the research and education activities, building upon the infrastructure developed through the current Track 1 project.

Education, Outreach and Workforce Development components include:

- Community and Tribal College Faculty Development in effective STEM teaching, faculty research experiences
- Graduate externships
- Undergraduate research experiences
- Middle school computational science program (GUTC)
- K-12 teacher professional development
- Outreach through museum exhibitions
- Entrepreneurship Institute

### **Discussion**

The Committee discussed the proposed activities and expressed support for the approach and focus areas. Research leads have been asked to identify faculty hires that will be needed and for which EPSCoR may contribute start-up packages; initial possibilities include a data scientist (workflow, provenance, and visualization), a metabolic engineer (bioalgal fuels), and a social scientist (focused on decision support science/system dynamics modeling). These faculty hires could be a potential opportunity for cost share.

### **Cost Share**

Bill reviewed the requirement for a 20% match, or \$4 million, in the next proposal and warned that NM institutions would lose \$20 million in EPSCoR funding if we are unable to commit \$4 million in cost share.

Several options were discussed, with the following outcomes:

- UNM has committed to returning 45% of F&A to the EPSCoR office.
- Vimal Chaitanya called for the other research universities to match UNM's commitment and committed NMSU to the same 45% return of F&A.
- Van Romero declined to commit return of any F&A at NM Tech at this time.
- Bill reported that several of the research leads are pursuing matching funds from industry.
- Jack Jekowski agreed to reach out to the NM Economic Development Department and Higher Education Department to keep them informed. He will work with the EPSCoR office to set up briefings if necessary.
- Bill and Mary Jo will be meeting with LANL and the NM Consortium in Los Alamos on June 18 to discuss collaboration and cost share possibilities.
- The Committee agreed that commitments for cost share must be made and reported by early August, near the time of the Tiger Team review, since the cost share will impact what activities can be funded.
- Jack mentioned that the upcoming competition for the Sandia National Laboratories contract may provide some opportunities to seek funding and it was noted that Lockheed Martin in the past has been a substantial contributor to the Museum of Natural History (I-Max theater) and other related science and technology venues. Jack will check with Marie Garcia to see if there is any interest in assisting with the cost share from the private sector. Kurt Steinhaus indicated that LANS may be able to make a one year commitment of \$100,000, but could

not make any guarantees after that, as a result of their year-to-year contract for the Laboratory.

### **Other Items**

- Subawardees will be notified that their Year 5 funding is contingent upon them developing a plan to get EPSCoR-generated data into the NM EPSCoR data portal. It was noted that EDAC and the EPSCoR State Office have particular concern with NM Tech researchers not responding to their requests for information.
- CI Day will be September 28 in Albuquerque; participation by faculty and graduate students from all institutions is strongly encouraged.
- At this time NSF EPSCoR (headquarters) has not determined if or when there will be Track 2 funding or if there will another "Track X" funding opportunity.
- The next State Committee meeting will be in October-November, but there will be a video/phone conference call in August to review the status of the proposal. Bill Michener will send out a Doodle request to determine what date in the October-November time frame will work best for the majority of Committee members.
- Jack Jekowski and Kurt Steinhaus mentioned that there will be a STEM Town Hall held at the Lodge in Santa Fe on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The event is being sponsored by the New Mexico Partnership for Math and Science Education, with a major donor being Los Alamos National Laboratory.