

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT (RII 4)
PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

EDUCATION & OUTREACH WHITE PAPER

FOR DISCUSSION
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TITLE: OUTREACH RESOURCES INVENTORY

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Description of Activity (1-2 paragraphs)

A web-based data portal would serve to provide a link of communication between the researchers and other outreach efforts, and the general public during NM EPSCoR RII4. This web-based data portal would be designed to be accessible, understandable, and adaptable to its users and serve as the clearinghouse for all public information related to the grant. The first step in developing a web-based portal for use by all audience groups would be completing an inventory of available resources. To date, there have been a variety of relatively small-scale attempts of identifying and cataloguing science-related activities, curricula, program information, and science papers written for the general public. This would be an opportunity to inventory these assets on a statewide scale that would be accessible by the public, K-12 teachers and students, post-secondary institutions, businesses, and government.

The first step in this process would be to gather information completed in previous inventory attempts. This would include gathering information from programs like the New Mexico Public Education Department's "My Standards" and resources gathered from the Watershed Education Network, which would aid in developing a network for formal and informal science education for New Mexico. In addition, time should be allocated to visiting other similar statewide data portals such as those in Colorado and North Carolina, and researching the successes and challenges of these other systems. Lastly, this effort could collect upon the current NM EPSCoR RII3 grant by consolidating the education and outreach efforts along with capturing the scientific activities related to climate change and mountain sources of water. This would also encourage an effort to take the science completed under the NM EPSCoR RII3 grant and begin translating this information into a format that is accessible and understandable by the general public.

Relevance to Energy-Water-Environment Nexus

Development of a web-based data portal would build upon the science efforts related to climate and water during the current iteration of NM EPSCoR. Additionally, the web-based data portal would allow for a focus on collecting already useful and successful activities developed for all audiences related to the topics of energy, water, and the environment rather than putting energy into developing new activities. This inventory could allow for exploring information related to energy, water, and the environment on a global down to a local scale and provide for an opportunity to take the scientific research and translate it into a format that is readable by the general public.

Target Audience(s): K-12, Undergrad/Grad, Outreach, Workforce Development

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