

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT (RII 4)
PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

EDUCATION & OUTREACH WHITE PAPER

FOR DISCUSSION
December 12, 2011

TITLE: PUBLIC ENERGY-WATER-ENVIRONMENT AND
STEM ISSUES POSTER SESSIONS/SYMPOSIA FOR K-20+

LEAD AUTHORS: ROBERT D. LONG (ENMU)

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS: N/A

Title: (original) Multidisciplinary poster symposia at all institutions, M&S day at legislature
(updated) Public Energy-Water-Environment and STEM issues poster sessions/symposia for K-20+

Lead Author: Robert D. Long (ENMU)

Contributing Authors:

Description of Activity:

The main focus of this activity would be to sponsor poster sessions at multiple institutions around the state, culminating in a state-wide poster session/symposia (ideally as part of the New Mexico Math & Science Day at the legislature). The poster sessions would be themed on the Energy-Water-Environment nexus key to our EPSCoR program thrust, but would invite all undergraduate and K-12 students in a region to gather together and present their ideas of key STEM issues and possible solutions important to New Mexico's future. Graduate students would also be invited to present relevant research posters more directly related to the nexus issue as well. If possible, a keynote speaker may give an address on topics directly related to the Energy-Water-Environment nexus. Some financial incentive such as small cash awards could be awarded to encourage participation. The posters/presentations would be events to which the public is invited to attend.

The best ideas/posters could be invited to participate in a subsequent annual statewide event, along with some speakers from the NM EPSCoR research community, representing in a public forum the efforts to address these issues within the academic/research community in New Mexico. This would constitute a public outreach of STEM and Energy-Water-Environment issues of importance to New Mexico. It would serve in an educational role for those participating or viewing the posters/presentations.

Relevance to Energy-Water-Environment Nexus:

The main theme of this activity is to present educational materials, ideas, and possible solutions directly related to the Energy-Water-Environment nexus. It would also include materials on related STEM issues of importance to New Mexico as an educational and outreach activity, especially for K-12 and undergraduate participants.

Target Audience:

The key idea for this activity is to inclusively involve both K-12 and undergraduate/graduate communities in an educational outreach activity of benefit to both the participants and the general public. It is hoped such poster sessions/symposia would catalyze further informal discussions of these issues within the communities involved afterwards.