



Established Program to
Stimulate Competitive Research

News & Notes

October 2022

A welcome from our new PI

Greetings! I'm Colleen Fitzgerald and I'm the vice president of research at NDSU. With the news that ND EPSCoR, an office that serves the entire state, moved into my office last month, I want you to know that despite the inevitable changes that occur with a move like this, ND EPSCoR's underlying mission, values, and goals will remain the same. We serve the state – we serve you!

As I start my second year at NDSU, it's clear how unique and special North Dakota is. From the Pembina Gorge to Lake Sakakawea to the Badlands, I've met people involved in agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and in variety of other industries that have been operating for decades or are just starting out. I've learned that the citizens of North Dakota have a drive for overall excellence and desire to continually improve our state and nation.

I'm also seeing how vital meaningful research and educational partnerships are to North Dakotans' prosperity and how EPSCoR's work is a fundamental building block for that. I'm driven to prioritize the stewardship of these significant resources and to ensure they bear fruit for the benefit of North Dakotans. Seeing the success of these investments is a major driver and motivator for me personally.

To let you know a bit about me, I grew up in Tallahassee, Florida and became interested in linguistics and Indigenous languages, especially their sound systems, during my graduate work at the University of Arizona. Before coming to North Dakota last year, I had the opportunity to spend four years as a program officer at the National Science Foundation (NSF). I'm eager to leverage that experience and insight within the EPSCoR mission.

Equitable, productive partnerships have been a hallmark of my career. I've worked to establish them as

a researcher with tribal partners in the Chickasaw Language Revitalization Program, with the Cherokee and Choctaw language programs, and as an NSF program officer when partnering with the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Tribal Colleges and Universities Program. When I attended my fourth Native Languages Summit recently and reconnected with friends and collaborators and took part in the sessions, the power and importance of listening resonated with me. I pledge to bring that same philosophy to ND EPSCoR and its many partners.

Turning to another leadership transition, I would like to introduce Jolynne Tschetter as interim executive director of ND EPSCoR. Jolynne previously served as executive director of the innovation and economic development department within the NDSU Office of Research and Creative Activity. In this role, she built research relationships and sponsorship opportunities with foundations and business partners interested in accessing research expertise at NDSU. She also managed the intellectual property developed at the university.

Her professional background includes a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute; research positions at a start-up biotechnology company and at a large pharmaceutical company; a research assistant professor position at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; and promoting economic development in her prior position with the North Dakota Department of Commerce. She holds a BS in biotechnology and a PhD in veterinary science.

Jolynne will serve in an interim capacity while we search for a new director.

I want to invite you to our next virtual ND EPSCoR State Steering Committee Meeting on November 10

from 11am – noon (CT). The meeting is available via zoom (for more information, see <https://apps.nd.gov/sos/ndpmn/governingBodies/listGoverningBodies.htm>).

The ND EPSCoR State Steering Committee is chaired by SBHE member Dr. John Warford and meets quarterly. Everyone is welcome to attend these meetings and also to join us at our state conference on March 29, 2023, in Fargo.

My goals are to always steward ND EPSCoR resources strategically and to use my platform to celebrate and showcase our many researchers, educators and students who are working on ND EPSCoR activities, including ND-ACES, the NSF Track 1 award. I look forward to meeting you, learning from you and moving forward together. If you have feedback to offer, we have set up a page where you can submit feedback, either with your contact info or anonymously, at www.ndsu.edu/research/ndepscor. You can also reach me at colleen.fitzgerald@ndsu.edu or via my assistant, amy.kain@ndsu.edu if you would like to schedule some time to talk. Jolynne Tschetter can be reached at jolynne.tschetter@ndsu.edu

Colleen Fitzgerald

Journal Club invites collaboration

The ND-ACES journal club is a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with other students, promote current research findings, and keep up to date on new knowledge and research. Journal club provides an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to critique and evaluate research articles, while also sharing ideas for future projects. The ND-ACES Journal club encompasses the Materials, Cellular, Computational, and Education and Workforce Development pillars, creating an interdisciplinary community of students. This journal club also enables students to connect with each other across institutions in the NDUS system, and students can even earn ND EPSCoR digital badges, such as participation in journal club or presentation to journal club, which can be added to a CV or resume. The ND-ACES journal club meets every two weeks on Tuesday from 3-4pm via Microsoft Teams. The next meeting is November 8.

Events and trainings

Event on thought leadership

Communication and Dissemination lead Dr. Justin Walden hosted a training session on online thought leadership on Sept. 15. To access it, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Walden-training-Sept-22>. The next training will be at the state conference in Fargo in March and will cover giving news media interviews.

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

RCR training is available upon request to augment initial campus or Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) RCR trainings. Please [get in touch with ND EPSCoR](#) to schedule.

Funding opportunities

Funding Opportunities come from three sources:

1. The National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded New Discoveries at the Advanced Interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES) RII Track-1 cooperative agreement, which consists of two broad components: 1) Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE), which consists of three research pillars: materials design, cellular systems, and computational approaches and 2) PROMoting Sustainable Partnerships in Education and Research (PROSPER), which consists of four connected project elements: education and workforce development, broadening participation, partnerships and collaborations, and communication and dissemination.
2. ND EPSCoR State Office
3. [EPSCoR and EPSCoR-like federal funding agencies](#), which include: Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Institutes of Health (NIH), NSF, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Department of Defense (DoD).

Distributed Research Experiences for Undergraduates (dREU)

The Distributed Research Experience for Undergraduates (dREU) program is designed to strengthen North Dakota's STEM ecosystem by catalyzing bioscience research and career development opportunities for undergraduates. Selected students will conduct science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research projects under the supervision and guidance of faculty researchers from the New Discoveries in the Advanced Interface of

Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES) Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE). Like all ND-ACES programs, dREU is committed to building a diverse pool of engaged students and competitive researchers. Minorities underrepresented in STEM (e.g., women, first-generation college students, persons with disabilities, rural populations) are thus strongly encouraged to apply. For more information, see the [Request for Applications](#).

Application Deadline: Open Until Funds are Exhausted

Undergraduate Research Assistantship (URA) Program

This program gives current junior and senior undergraduate students pursuing a B.S. STEM degree at a four-year institution (or a two-year institution granting B.S. STEM degrees) in North Dakota an opportunity to perform research within the National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded New Discoveries in the Advanced Interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES) Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE).

The URA is a six-month award that is renewable for up to one additional year. URA awardees will conduct up to 18 months of research under the direction of a ND-ACES CCBSE researcher. For more information, see the [Request for Applications](#).

Application Deadline: Open until funds are exhausted

Travel Awards for ND-ACES CCBSE Faculty Participants

ND EPSCoR's New Discoveries in the Advanced Interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES) RII Track-1 mission is to support scientific efforts that result in increased STEM faculty capacity and competitiveness.

To underscore the importance of collaborations in the sustainability of the ND-ACES effort, travel seed awards of up to \$3,000 are available to ND-ACES Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE) senior personnel. A collaboration is the extension or development of a research-based engagement (directly aligned with the CCBSE applicant's ND-ACES activities) with a non-CCBSE researcher affiliated with an academic institution or national laboratory. Travel must be within the domestic U.S. (including within ND) and must be completed by 6/15/23. For details, see the [Request for Proposals](#).

Proposal Submission Deadline: when funds are exhausted

Defense Established Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) FOAs

The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the fiscal year 2022 (FY22) Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR). The program is sponsored and managed by the Basic Research Office, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (OUSD [R&E]), awarded by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), and administered through the Office of Naval Research (ONR). The DoD plans to award FY22 DEPSCoR appropriations through this announcement.

The Research Collaboration ([FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2022-0006](#)) funding opportunity seeks proposals that advance knowledge in basic science involving bold and ambitious research that may lead to extraordinary outcomes such as disrupting accepted theories and perspectives. Proposals must be submitted by a pair of researchers in DEPSCoR States/Territories (Applicant and Collaborator) aimed at introducing potential applicants to the DoD's unique research challenges and its supportive research ecosystem.

The Capacity Building funding opportunity ([FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2022-0007](#)) aims to support the strategic objectives of institutions of higher education (IHE) (either individually or in partnership with others) in DEPSCoR States/Territories to achieve basic research excellence in areas of high relevance to the DoD.

Current Closing Date for Applications: Feb 21, 2023

NSF: EPSCoR Workshop Opportunities

EPSCoR is designed to fulfill NSF's mandate to promote scientific progress nationwide, and NSF EPSCoR continually welcomes proposals for workshops in Solicitation NSF 19-588. These workshops focus on multi-jurisdictional efforts of regional to national importance related to EPSCoR's goals and NSF's mission. For more information, please see the RFP: [EPSCoR Workshop Opportunities](#)

Acronyms

Participating Institutions:

- Master's College/University (MCU)
 - Minot State – Minot State University
- Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs)
 - DSU – Dickinson State University
 - Mayville State – Mayville State University
 - VCSU – Valley City State University
- Research Universities (RUs)
 - NDSU – North Dakota State University
 - UND – University of North Dakota
- Tribal Colleges/Universities (TCUs)
 - CCCC – Cankdeska Cikana Community College
 - NHSC – Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College
 - SBC – Sitting Bull College
 - TMCC – Turtle Mountain Community College
 - UTTC – United Tribes Technical College

Funding:

- National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 Cooperative Agreements
 - ND-ACES – New Discoveries in the Advanced Interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (NSF OIA #1946202)
- NSF Collaborative Research
 - CIRCLES Alliance – Cultivating Indigenous Research Communities for Leadership in Education and STEM Alliance (NSF OIA #2038196)
- ND EPSCoR State Office
 - STEM programming identified within the newsletter and state match funding for ND-ACES

Acknowledgement

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

Stay in touch

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