From the Interim Executive Director

Please join me in welcoming Kimberly Bauchamp, Ph.D. as the ND EPSCoR Project Administrator. Kimberly brings a forward-thinking, positive attitude and a wealth of applicable professional experience to our office.

The Project Administrator plays a vital role within ND EPSCoR, working collaboratively with all of our institutional partners, with responsibilities in managing budgets, operations, and programs.

You can learn more about Kimberly and the experience she brings to ND EPSCoR in the story below.

Please note that we extended the registration deadline for the ND EPSCoR Annual Conference to March 10. If you haven’t had the opportunity to register yet, use the links below to secure your spot at the conference. The event is open to everyone and is free of charge but all attendees will need to register. I hope to see you there!

Jolynne
Welcome to Kimberly Beauchamp, Ph.D.
ND EPSCoR Project Administrator

Kimberly joined the ND EPSCoR Office on October 31, 2022. Her first day as the ND EPSCoR Project Administrator (PA) was on February 1, 2023.

Kimberly completed three degrees at NDSU. While her B.S. and Ph.D. are in communication, her M.S. includes a double major in communication and food safety. She earned an accounting degree from the North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton.

Kimberly has served in a variety of leadership roles in industry and academia that prepare her for the PA position. She has more than 30 years of combined experience working with colleges, universities, agencies, businesses, and community organizations to promote partnerships, scholarships, and resources.

Kimberly brings to the PA position more than 15 years of experience at NDSU developing, administering, monitoring, evaluating, auditing, and managing complex projects and budgets, including those involving international partners. Her expertise also includes teaching, strategic communication, collaborations, and the preparation of strategic plans and annual reports, to name a few.

Prior to NDSU, Kimberly was the Director of Operations and Finance in the McDonald’s industry. Additionally, she served as an Operations Manager and Tax Associate with H&R Block. While employed at a three-branch Credit Union, she served as an accountant and auditor. She brings to the PA position more than 20 years of industry experience, such as with partnership development, strategic planning, preparation of annual reports, workforce development, training, staffing, accounting, income taxes, auditing, site visits, communication, public relations, and marketing.

As a social scientist and food-safety specialist, Kimberly has conducted funded research for multiple agencies, such as the United States Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Agency for International
Development. Her research and outreach efforts focus on capacity building, food safety, food security, food protection, food defense, terrorism, best practice development, and strategic risk and crisis communication. Her work has been disseminated through a variety of peer-reviewed journal articles, technical and Tribal publications, conference presentations, and national Webinars.

Kimberly looks forward to participating in the growth of ND EPSCoR’s incredible transformative system. She is excited to serve as the State Office’s Project Administrator.

Kimberly can be reached at kimberly.beauchamp@ndsu.edu

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ND EPSCoR State Conference Keynote:
Annalies Corbin, Ph.D.

We are happy to welcome Dr. Annalies Corbin as our keynote speaker for the ND EPSCoR Conference.

Her keynote, entitled "Project Accessibility: A Conversation About DeMystifying Science," will cover how for several decades the scientific community has been talking about the “leaky pipeline” in the STEM fields and how we recruit and retain a diversity of participants in our various scientific pursuits. And yet we continue to have a lack of understanding about how inaccessible many find most STEM fields. But there are several key strategies that we can easily employ in our work that can change the current paradigm.

Learn more about Annalies Corbin
Registration Deadline Extended

The ND EPSCoR State Conference is free to attend and open to everyone but registration is required. The new deadline to register is March 10.

ND EPSCoR State Conference 2023

Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at the Fargodome in Fargo, North Dakota

North Dakota NSF Career Awardees

Two NDSU researchers with connections to ND EPSCoR were recently awarded NSF CAREER Awards. Congratulations to Trung Le and Mohi Quadir on this achievement!

Trung B. Le, assistant professor of civil, construction and environmental engineering at NDSU, received a $500,000 NSF CAREER award to research the flow of river ice which can cause disasters like flooding, scour, ice jams and bank erosion. Le will develop the technology needed to obtain high-resolution flow data in ice-covered rivers which will lead to new ways to prevent river ice disasters. He will provide hands-on research and learning
opportunities for students at NDSU and, in a collaboration with the Red River Keepers, will provide scientific activities for K-12 students and teachers.

Read more about Le's research

Mohi Quadir, associate professor of coatings and polymeric materials at NDSU, received a $676,969 award to investigate interactions occurring at the interface of nanoscale materials and enzymes. To study these interactions, Quadir will develop polymeric nanocapsules that mimic intracellular organelles and proteins and respond to specific enzymes in the body. Quadir’s research will involve both undergraduate and graduate students along with developing collaborations and mentorship relationships with researchers and instructors at Tribal Colleges and the primarily undergraduate institutions across North Dakota.

Read more about Quadir's research

RII Track-4 Research Awards

Sougata Roy, UND assistant professor of mechanical engineering, received nearly $250,000 to study how additive manufacturing (AM) processes can be used to make nuclear reactor components. The project will make use of nitrogen-strengthened austenitic steel, which will function as the feedstock for the manufacturing process. Once completed, those components will undergo an in-depth investigation into their functionality versus traditionally manufactured components.

Learn more >> RII Track-4: NSF: Development, Characterization and Performance Evaluation of Surface Engineered Additively Manufactured Parts for Nuclear Reactors

Bakhtiyor Rasulev, NDSU associate professor of coatings and polymeric materials, aims to create a new AI model to determine the toxicity of various types of microplastics found in our environment. Rasulev’s research is supported by a National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR RII Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows award and is entitled “Data-driven Computational and Machine Learning
Do you have an idea, innovation, or research that could eventually become a product or service? Are you interested in adding new perspectives and furthering your customer discovery? Are you considering starting a business?

The Great Plains Innovation Corps is now taking applications for our Spring 2023 Cohort! This entrepreneurship training is a free five-week program that starts on Monday, March 27 and consists of large group training sessions taught by NSF I-Corps-trained instructors. The program also features interactive course content and practice in small groups. Participants will cover topics like customer development, segmentation and discovery, ecosystem modeling, and more!

The Great Plains I-Corps hub’s free, non-credit training program is welcome to all who are interested in applying. Spots are filling up fast, so be sure to submit your application soon.

The application can be found in the events section of our website at https://gp-icorps.org/. You can also email our team at info@gp-icorps.org for more information.

Applications are due by Friday, March 17.
STEM at Home Activities with ND EPSCoR

Finding engaging STEM projects for elementary students that families can facilitate is not always easy but that is one of the goals of STEM at Home. These simple but fun projects are targeted at young students and will help teach important critical thinking skills and potentially spark a lifetime interest in STEM. Each video also includes a shopping list for materials.

Our latest video shows how to create an "infinite" chocolate bar at home (and explains the science behind the geometry).

Additional new videos will be released this month.

Learn more >>
Put the STTAR program to work for you!
Deadline extended for STTAR Program

North Dakota businesses who want to apply to be part of the Students in Technology Transfer And Research (STTAR) program now have additional time to do so. The new deadline for applications is March 31.

STTAR provides opportunities for students (juniors through graduates) in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics disciplines to use their academic training and experience to address challenging science and technology-based problems faced by North Dakota companies.

More information and the application form is available on the STTAR page.

We're Hiring!

These positions are currently in the process of interviewing candidates.

- ND EPSCoR Director of Tribal Partnerships
- ND EPSCoR Communication Specialist

Upcoming Events
RII Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows Information Sessions

The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is hosting virtual office hours to share information about the Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows solicitation [NSF 23-535](https://nsf.gov). This opportunity provides awards to build research capacity and transform the career trajectories of non-tenured and tenured investigators through extended collaboration trips to the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers.

This solicitation offers two tracks - RII Track-4:NSF and RII Track-4:@NASA. While they are similar in achieving the same goals, RII Track-4:NSF is open to a broad community, and RII Track-4:@NASA focuses on PIs from specific institutions of higher education with high enrollments of trainees from underrepresented populations in STEM (See the solicitation more details) to collaborate specifically with researchers at NASA’s participating research centers.

NSF EPSCoR will host multiple office hour sessions where PIs may meet with program officers to address questions and / or seek clarification. Please submit questions in advance to cwhitley@nsf.gov

Office Hour Dates—all times at 2:00PM ET

- Thursday, March 2
- Friday, March 17
- Thursday, March 30
While real time captioning will be available, requests for additional accommodations may be sent to cwhitley@nsf.gov 14 days in advance.

Register to attend one or more of the sessions here: https://nsf.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ttChdLcOSyS8gWf35b6TYg

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Request for Information (RFI)
Re-envisioning U.S. Postdoctoral Research Training and Career Progression within the Biomedical Research Enterprise

NIH is seeking input, particularly from trainees, early-stage faculty, and others invested in the biomedical workforce, about challenges faced by the postdoctoral trainee community.

Ensuring the future of U.S. competitiveness and innovation in biomedical research is of utmost importance to NIH. A new Advisory Committee to the NIH Director (ACD) Working Group was recently established to:

- Explore the status of the postdoctoral training system
- Identify and understand critical factors and issues relating to the perceived decline in the number of postdoctoral fellows in academia
- Provide recommendations to address those factors
You can share your insights with the ADC working group on issues affecting the recent decline in postdoctoral trainees and possible solutions by visiting the RFI, which closes on April 14, 2023.

Learn more >>

2023 NSF Engineering CAREER Proposal Workshop

This is a virtual, three-day workshop (May 8, 9, & 12, 2023), the first and third days of which are free of charge. This workshop will provide early career faculty who are eligible to submit a CAREER proposal in July 2023 with knowledge and strategies to enable the formulation of more competitive CAREER proposals for submission to the NSF Directorate for Engineering.

Registration is limited, so interested and eligible individuals should register by March 17, 2023.

Learn more >>

DoD Breast Cancer Research Opportunities

These funding opportunities are applicable to ND ACES as part of the sustainability component.

- Dept. of the Army — USAMRAA
  DoD Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Levels 1 and 2
- Dept. of the Army — USAMRAAT
  DoD Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Level 3
- Dept. of the Army — USAMRAA
  DoD Breast Cancer, Breakthrough Award Level 4
- Dept. of the Army — USAMRAA
  DoD Breast Cancer, Clinical Research Extension Award
The IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE) funding opportunity announcement (FOA) (PAR-23-100) has been issued. INBRE principal investigators and other key personnel, including leaders of partner institutions, are strongly encouraged to attend NIGM’s upcoming webinar, where program staff will discuss changes from the prior FOA in eligibility, organization, governance, program expectations, and reporting requirements. There will be ample time for a Q&A session at the end of the webinar:

**March 7, 2 to 3:30 pm ET**

**Zoom link** (Meeting ID: 160 384 7610; Passcode: 856398)

Those planning to attend are encouraged to contact and submit questions to Krishan Arora prior to the webinar. The webinar and presentation slides will be posted on the INBRE webpage following the event.
Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for News and Notes?

Contact Us

Acknowledgement
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