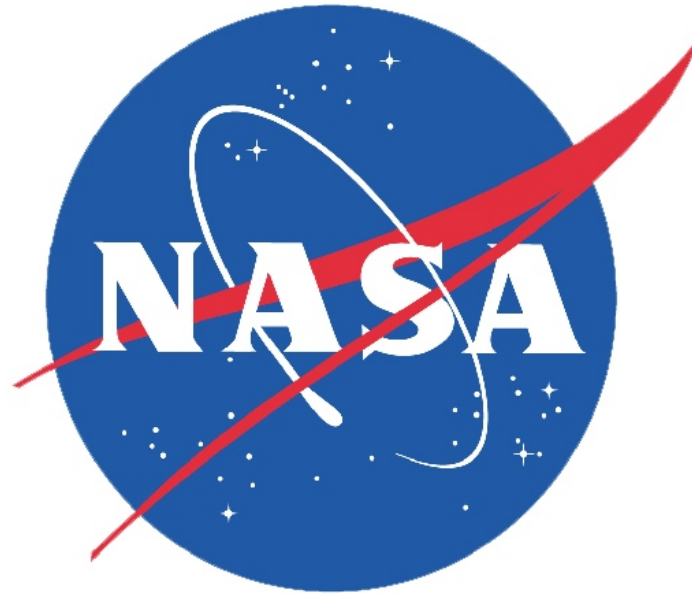


# NASA EPSCoR Opportunities



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Director

*NASA in Kansas*

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# NASA Opportunities

- There are a number of ways to work with NASA
  - Grants - SBIR's, NRA's, SBIR's, NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts, etc.
  - Direct funding/contracts with NASA Directorates
  - Faculty Fellowships, via each NASA Center
  - Student Internships <https://intern.nasa.gov>
  - KS NASA Space Grant Teacher Workshop Program
  - EPSCoR programs



# NASA Opportunities

- Be sure to visit NSPIRES for lots of NASA solicitation information
  - <https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/>
- I'm going to focus on the EPSCoR opportunities
  - EPSCoR helps states like KS become more competitive
  - EPSCoR opportunities are a great way to start and find other opportunities



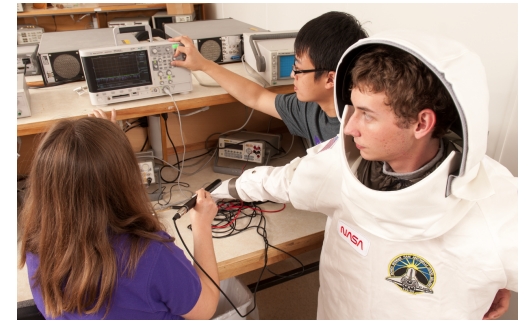
# NASA EPSCoR

- NASA's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is about
  - Helping 26 states that need help being competitive
    - Sadly 8 (non-EPSCoR) US states get 80% of all federal research dollars
- NASA EPSCoR goals include
  - Establishing long-term, self-sustaining, & nationally-competitive research infrastructure capabilities
  - Addressing research needs common to NASA and Kansas (e.g., aerospace, energy, & bio)
- Kansas efforts are executed through the Kansas NASA EPSCoR Program (KNEP)
  - The lead institution & *NASA in Kansas* is located at WSU
  - NASA requires all state EPSCoR activities to be run through the lead institution & the director to be listed as the PI (don't panic, the Science-Investigator still gets PI credit)



# Kansas NASA EPSCoR Program

- KNEP funding opportunities include
  - Research Infrastructure Development (RID) awards (PDG & SRI)
  - Cooperative Agreement Notices (CAN)
  - ISS Flight Opportunities (ISS)
  - Rapid Response Research (R3)
- Watch for Requests for Proposals (RFPs), via emails & on the *NASA in Kansas* website
  - <http://nasainkansas.org>
- Submissions are limited by NASA & must come through the KNEP office





# Kansas NASA EPSCoR Program

- Kansas Research Infrastructure Development (RID) efforts annually include
  - 2-3 Partnership Development Grants (PDG) - \$18K each
  - Seed Research Initiation (SRI) grant - \$150K
- May also include KBOR support
- Outside collaborations are expected (NASA, industry, etc.)
- Requests for Proposals (RFP's) are typically issued in the fall



# KNEP PDG

- Partnership Development Grants (PDG)
  - A great starting point
  - Current RFP due Mar. 12, 2021
  - Currently \$18K, with \$3.3K cost-sharing
  - Focus is on establishing a personal NASA connection for continued collaboration
    - Mainly a people-infrastructure development activity
  - Must include meaningful travel to NASA Center/s
  - Your near- & long-term research plans are important
  - The plans need to align with EPSCoR, NASA, & KS needs
  - Efforts should lead to a publication & follow-on proposal
  - Student involvement is critical
    - Diversity is important (increasing importance)
    - Student involvement can help you get money & grants



# KNEP SRI

- Seed Research Initiation (SRI) grants
  - A logical second step
  - Current RFP due Feb. 26, 2021
  - Currently \$152K, with \$50k cost-sharing
  - The goal is to collaborate & evolve promising new research ideas to a less risky level
    - This is a people & capability infrastructure development activity
  - Should lead to publications & follow-on proposals
    - Conference papers with your NASA collaborator & students
    - For CAN, NRA, & other non-EPSCoR grants
  - Your near- & long-term research plans are important
  - The plans need to align with EPSCoR, NASA, & KS needs
  - Student involvement is critical
    - Diversity is important
    - Student involvement can help you get money & grants



# KNEP CAN

- Cooperative Agreement Notices (CAN)
  - Typically \$750K for 3-years, the number of NASA submissions is limited, & must come through the KNEP office
  - Cost-sharing required, we sometimes secure KBOR support
  - Significant collaborations are strongly encouraged (NASA, industry, etc.)
  - This is a people & higher-level research capability infrastructure development activity
  - Expect a RFP soon, watch email & *NASA in KS* website (old RFP's are available to review)





# KNEP Other

- International Space Station (ISS) Flight Opportunity Awards
  - \$100K over 3-years, no cost-sharing
  - Just expanded opportunities to include sub-orbital flight (e.g., rockets, near-space balloons, zero-G aircraft, etc.)
- Rapid Response Research (R3) Awards
  - \$100K for one year, no cost-sharing
  - NASA needs are dynamic
- Timings for ISS's & R3's
  - Multiple times per year & remain open till awarded
  - Submissions are limited & must come through the KNEP office
- Watch for RFP's, via emails & the *NASA in Kansas* website



# NASA EPSCoR Proposal Tips

- Write efficiently!
- Recognize that it's not an NSF proposal
- Address every Request for Proposal (RFP) item, in order
  - Don't simply parrot or echo RFP items
  - Show depth & evidence
  - You are in a statewide competition, with many other good investigators
- Effectively convey your near- & long-term plans
- Align your work with EPSCoR, NASA, & KS interests
  - NASA expects a link with one or more mission directorates
  - Check NASA research interest documents (see KNEP webpage)
  - Increased interest in engaging a diverse range of students



# NASA EPSCoR Proposal Tips

- Demonstrate a clear focus on EPSCoR specific goals
  - Reviewers are not overly concerned with the technical/scientific merits if NASA is involved
  - EPSCoR goals are the most important thing (highlighted slide 3)
    - An amazing research project will be rejected if it doesn't meet EPSCoR objectives
- Recognize the NASA EPSCoR program is not a place for clearly established projects or researchers
  - Funds are for new efforts, not for those already established & competitive
  - Ultimately the intent is to use EPSCoR to establish or graduate people to non-EPSCoR opportunities



# NASA EPSCoR Proposal Tips

- NASA collaboration is critical
  - Check Center/Directorate focus & contacts list (visit the *NASA in KS webpage*)
  - Watch for NASA authors
  - Work hard to make the interactions meaningful, deep, & productive
- Listen to NASA & collaborators - respond to their needs
  - It's difficult to get them to do something they don't want
  - Check NASA webpages for strategic plans, interests, focus, etc.
- Project organization & management is important
  - Keep your research efforts compact & simple
  - Collaborate with other EPSCoR states only when it makes sense
- Meaningful industry involvement is awesome & very powerful



# NASA EPSCoR Proposal Tips

- Make sure your proposed budgets are real and well-planned
  - Don't expect post-award budget changes to be easy
  - Expenditure rates & balances are watched (issues will affect future award chances)
  - No cost extensions are more difficult to get
- Make sure your travel budget is explained & justified
  - Don't let it look like a vacation, unrelated conference attendance, or an irrelevant trip



# NASA EPSCoR Proposal Tips

- Cost-sharing or match ideas
  - Waived indirect costs can be used, but they
    - Don't add utility or value to your proposal
    - Make you less competitive to proposals with actual cash cost-sharing
    - Don't add money to your research overhead account
  - Your time can be used as match (if not listed as release)
  - See if your department will allocate faculty release to pay students (then department funds can be listed as cost-sharing)
  - Use actual lab & software costs as match
  - Collaborating industry partners can be an excellent cost-sharing source
  - Department, CoE, or university support for participating students can be used as match



# NASA EPSCoR Proposal Tips

- Don't forget you are competing, for money, against other good investigators
- You ultimately need to submit a proposal that scores better than all the others
  - "There can only be one"
  - Selections are often very close, get every point possible
  - Keep trying if you don't get selected, use the feedback to improve





# NASA EPSCoR Summary

- Partner Development Grant (PDG)
  - Due Mar. 12, 2021, \$18K, with \$3.3K cost-sharing
- Seed Research Initiation (SRI)
  - Due Feb. 26, 2021, \$152K, with \$50k cost-sharing
- International Space Station (ISS) Flight Opportunities
  - Due Dec. 4, \$100K, no/cost-sharing
- Rapid Research Response (R3)
  - Due Jan. 5, 2021, \$100K, no/cost-sharing
- Cooperative Agreement Notices (CAN)
  - TBA, \$750K, w/cost-sharing



# NASA EPSCoR Summary

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- Focus on EPSCoR's fundamental intent!
- Include strong collaborations!
- Go the extra distance you need to win, you are in a competition!

# NASA in Kansas



- Thanks for listening, I hope I've helped!
- For further information or help
  - Visit the *NASA in Kansas* website – <http://nasainkansas.org>
  - Contact the *NASA in Kansas* office at 316-978-3890 or [nasainkansas@wichita.edu](mailto:nasainkansas@wichita.edu)
  - Email the Director – [scott.miller@wichita.edu](mailto:scott.miller@wichita.edu)
- Questions?

