

For Immediate Release: January 26, 2004

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NASA NEBRASKA SPACE GRANT RECEIVES \$116,000 AWARD

The NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium (NSGC), a component of the Aviation Institute at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, has been selected to receive another substantial grant from NASA. Awards were made in two categories: single-state proposals and multi-state collaborative proposals. Of the 59 proposals received, 45 single-state and 16 multi-state applications were competitively selected by NASA to receive additional funding for aerospace workforce development.

Consortia were competitively selected on the basis of their plans to enhance the resource pool of higher education graduates and faculty who retain affiliation with NASA as employees, contractors, or principal investigators. This program allows Nebraska to assist in increasing the number and diversity of highly qualified individuals actively engaged in the NASA mission.

Additionally, NSGC is proceeding with enhancement of its Nebraska Geospatial Extension Program (NEGEP). NEGEP develops linkages between academic and commercial entities; transfers geospatial technology to public and corporate communities; and contributes to Nebraska's workforce development by implementing continuing education credits, training, and workshops in geoscience.



A total of \$3.75M is being granted, with single-state awards ranging from \$11,500 to \$100,000 and multi-state awards ranging from \$40,000 to \$175,000. Nebraska's funding will increase by \$116,000 for a grand total of \$1.3M, annually. As a result of this award, Nebraska is now the top-funded NASA Space Grant & EPSCoR institution. The carefully prepared proposal submitted by NSGC included strategies for enhancing Nebraska's presence in the field of geosciences, augmenting opportunities for workforce development,

and developing a pipeline of employees for NASA. NSGC was selected based on a competitive evaluation of Nebraska's merit of the activities, relationships with NASA Centers, and potential impact to the NASA student pipeline.

NSCG's winning proposal focused on Nebraska's successful Native American outreach efforts, which include partnerships with tribal community leaders, academia, tribal schools, and industry. These efforts have flourished into a comprehensive, goal-oriented, and well-focused initiative, providing support and direction for educational enhancement throughout Nebraska's Native American public schools. The additional Workforce Development grant will expand these endeavors to include collection of geospatial data, an invaluable aid in precision farming, management of watersheds, analysis of crop yields, identification of population shifts, and mitigation of the impact of impervious surfaces on the land.

The ways in which this award will support Nebraska students are varied. Nebraska supports and participates in the National Student Satellite Program, a national effort to engage students in the design, construction, and flying of a vast array of spacecraft. Additionally, Nebraska actively seeks to place more individuals within NASA-sponsored programs by seeking collaborative partnering with new and innovative programs, such as the NASA Langley Aerospace Vehicle Systems Technology Office Student Competition.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting NASA Nebraska Space Grant Consortium Coordinator Mary Fink at (402) 554-3772 or nasa@unomaha.edu.

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