



## *Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium*

### *2012 Fall Board Meeting*

*October 19, 2012*

*University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY*

Members Present: Suki Smaglik, Burt Davis, Andrew Young, Rich Laidlaw, Mary Schwem, Paul Johnson, John Wickman, Sherri Adams, Michele Wistisen, Astrid Northup, Shawna McBride, Michele Turner.

Guests Present: Paul Fechtmeister

The meeting began with introductions by those in attendance.

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Awards:

- a) Sherri Adams is our new affiliate representing Northern Wyoming Community College District – Gillette College. She is replacing Scott Thompson.
- b) The Outstanding Earth Science Educator (OEST) Award was presented to Paul Fechtmeister by Suki Smaglik
- c) Shawna discussed NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing for High School girls and posters were passed out to affiliates to take back their hometowns.

#### 2. NASA Space Grant Updates:

- a. The Fall Regional Meeting was held September 27-29 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Shawna, Michele and Rich attended.
- b. The Fall National Meeting is October 25-27 in Seattle, WA. Shawna, Paul and Drew are attending.
- c. The Spring National Meeting will be early March of 2013. If you are interested in attending, please let us know.
- d. The fate of the Regional Meetings will be announced at the Fall National Meeting in Seattle.
  - i. The role of Space Grant in NASA Education will also be discussed.
  - ii. As well as the next decade of Space Grant goals and objectives.
- e. NASA Space Grant has a new Program Director, Carl Person, who is replacing Diane DeTroye.
- f. NASA Education is reorganizing its priorities and there may be changes to Space Grant in the future. NASA Education areas of interest will include:
  - i. K-12 teacher professional development
  - ii. Engaging students in STEM education
  - iii. Undergraduate STEM education
  - iv. Underrepresented students in STEM education
- g. The online OEPM reporting system for NASA is currently open for testing. FY2012 data is expected to be entered into OEPM. The format for reporting should be similar to previous years; however, we will now be able to enter data throughout the year.

- h. NASA's new policy means no more "swag". This includes pens, pencils, t-shirts etc. We will look into other avenues for purchasing WIS t-shirts.
- i. Affiliate involvement came up at the Western Regional Meeting in Idaho. Is everyone happy with their level of involvement? Would you like to see more or less communication? Everyone stated they were happy with the relationship. The office is approachable and easy to work with.
  - i. Mary mentioned the idea of working with Don Day Weather to see if he would be interested in attending a meeting or possibly becoming an affiliate. Shawna asked if we would like to add another K-12 person as an affiliate. Mary was going to contact Don Day and see if it is something he might be interested in, possibly even as an informal member of the board.

### 3. Upcoming Events:

- a. Fall Senior Design Fellowship applications are due, Tuesday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. These are awarded to undergraduate seniors in engineering in the amount of \$1,000 per student or team.
- b. NASA Center Summer Internships – the SOLAR website open November 1, 2012 and will accept applications through March 15, 2013.
- c. Undergraduate Research Fellowship applications are due February 15, 2013.
- d. Graduate Research Fellowship applications are due February 15, 2013.
- e. Faculty Research Initiation Grant applications are due February 15, 2013.
- f. Faculty Education Enhancement Grants – usually due in March. It was decided to go with a deadline of the last Friday in March, March 29, 2013.
- g. The Spring Board Meeting will be held in Laramie on April 26, 2013 with Undergraduate Research Day to follow in April 27, 2013.
- h. Women in Science will be held Tuesday, May 14, 2013.

### 4. New Things on the Horizon:

- a. High Altitude Balloon Program
  - i. Unfortunately we were unable to connect with Jason for a fall webinar
    - 1. Paul F. mentioned contacting Jeff Branson with Spark Fun in Boulder as well, as they are DIY and ballooning also. We will discuss this at the Spring Board Meeting.
  - ii. Our next step is to contact Jason and get a date set for the webinar, sometime in November, have teachers submit proposals (due date a month after webinar) and plan for a Spring Workshop and Spring Launch with 6 payloads.
    - 1. We will advertise through our affiliates, Sharla Dowding with WSTA, and our teacher list we have compiled from WIS and PD workshops, targeting High Schools and Community Colleges across the State.
- b. Summer of Innovation continuation
  - i. With the help of Paul F. we are working on the Windy Wyo website which will be a clearinghouse of data from the wind turbines from around the State.
  - ii. Looks like installation of the Laramie wind turbine is moving forward, we have received permission from the UW Physical Plant to install.
  - iii. We are also looking at creating a Wind Energy Trunk and possibly a GPS/GIS Trunk, as there seems to be an interest for those two items.
- c. WiMSE
  - i. We have partnered with the Women's Center on campus along with EPSCoR, INBRE and McNair to host monthly seminars for women undergraduates involved in math, science and engineering.

- ii. This program has been well received on campus, with a number of female undergraduates returning for each session.
- 5. Updates from the Spring Meeting:
  - a. Starting with awards made this spring we will raise the undergraduate hourly wage from \$8.75/hour to \$10.00/hour.
  - b. Do we want to change the pay scale for graduate fellowships?
    - i. Ph.D.'s currently receive \$18,000 AY and \$2000 for one summer month.
    - ii. Master's currently receive \$13,500 AY and \$1500 for one summer month.
    - iii. Discussion about whether or not we want to change any or all parts of the graduate stipends resulted in keeping them all the same.
  - c. Updating the applications
    - i. Cost share will be required and information presented will be made more clear
    - ii. Will be more clear about requiring all current grant funding information, not just grant funding related to Space Grant
    - iii. For the CCSTEM Scholarships, we must have a UW Vendor Form turned in for students received funding. We can send that form out to you.
  - d. Updating the website
    - i. We are still in the process of finding a hosting mechanism for a new website.
  - e. Teacher Professional Development Opportunities
    - i. NASA Aerospace Education Specialist Tony Leavitt was here for our Exploring Science Teacher Workshop in August. We partnered with the Science Posse on campus to put on the teacher professional development workshop for one week.
    - ii. Tony is also available to do teacher professional development workshops on community college campuses throughout the year, or virtually depending on budget constraints.
  - f. MST program in Astronomy
    - i. Tim Slater contacted us this summer about potential funding of the program for FY2013.
    - ii. It was decided we should invite Tim to our Spring Board Mtg and have him present to us what has been done so far within the program and what he would like funding for. We would decide at that point whether to continue funding the program or not.
  - g. Competitive Grant – Innovation in STEM Education
    - i. Still waiting. It was mentioned in Idaho, but we are still awaiting the release of the solicitation.
    - ii. The goal is to increase undergraduate retention in STEM fields and increase the number of qualified STEM educators.
- 6. Fellowships/Scholarships/Grants/Internships
  - a. Community College STEM Scholarships – FY2010, 44 awards, 22 women, 3 minorities; FY 2011, 60 awards, 24 women, 6 minorities
  - b. Community College Transfer Scholarship – 2011, 33 applications, 3.5 awards (\$5000/each); 2012, 25 applications, 4 awards (\$4000/each)
  - c. WSSU Summer Fellowships – 2011, 3.5 applications, funded 3 students; 2012, 16 applications, funded 4 students (\$2500 plus travel, room, board; actual cost \$7500)
  - d. NASA Internships – 2011, 1 student; 2012, 5 students, 1 at NASA Ames in California and 4 at Johnson Space Center in Texas (\$6500/each)

- e. Undergraduate Research Fellowships – 30 applications, 6 full awards (\$5000), 6 partial awards (\$2500)
- f. Graduate Research Fellowships – 23 applications, 6 awards (5 Ph.D. and 1 MS)
- g. Faculty Research Initiation Grants – 14 applications, 2 full awards, 1 partial award, 2 NASA EPSCoR awards
- h. Faculty Education Enhancement Grants – 10 applications, 4 awards of varied amounts
- i. Travel Grants for scientific conferences (\$250 each) – FY 2010, 9 awarded; FY 2011, 33 awarded; FY 2012, 10 awarded to date
- j. Shawna then presented trend data from the reporting system

7. Budget:

- a. NASA Space Grant is a line item in the NASA Education budget
- b. NASA is reorganizing their Education office and at present future funding is uncertain
- c. NASA's total budget is \$18.5b, and the education budget is \$145m, which is 0.8% of their total budget.
- d. Our budget for 2012 and 2013 is \$430,000 with no augmentation funding.
  - i. In previous years we received our base funding and then augmentation monies which increased our budget to over \$600,000.
- e. We need to look at reductions in funding of our programs across the board.
  - i. Several items were discussed and it was decided Shawna would send out the budget and everyone would offer their comments/suggestions/ideas of which areas we should cut funding to, what percentages, etc. And that this discussion would be continued via email with all affiliates and board members.

8. Odds and Ends:

- a. Reimbursements – turn in receipts for food; let us know if your contact information has changed for mileage reimbursements.
- b. If you have highlights for the newsletter please send them to us!
- c. Thank you attending and there was a tour of the Casper College campus planned.