



**NSF EPSCoR**  
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



# **EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM Excellence (E-RISE)**

**Program Updates  
January 28, 2026**

# Outline

- Recognition of the 2025 E-RISE Awardees
- Program Updates
- Roundtable Discussion



# E-RISE 2025 Awardees

- Arkansas Smart Transportation Research Incubator through Data Engineering and Sciences (AR-STRIDES) - Heather L. Nachtmann - University of Arkansas, Arkansas State University, Southern Arkansas University, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and North Arkansas College
- Water in the Changing Coastal Environment of Delaware Saltwater Intrusion (WiCCED Salt) - Kent D. Messer – University of Delaware, Delaware State University, Delaware Technical Community College, Goldey-Beacom College, Wilmington University
- Advancing Sustainable Development Opportunities for the Guam Research Ecosystem - Bastian Bentlage – University of Guam, Guam Community College
- Louisiana Bio-Electric Fuel incubator (BEFi) - Creating Liquid Transportation Fuels from Agricultural Residues – Ingmar Schoegl – Louisiana State University, LSU Ag Center, Louisiana Tech University, River Parishes Community College, Southern University, and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette



# E-RISE 2025 Awardees

- Forest Research for New Mexico Water and Carbon Management (FOR-NM) – Marcy Litvak – University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, Western New Mexico University, Asombro Institute For Science Education
- Socio-ecological Impact of Microplastics in Coastal Ecosystems (SIMCoast) – Daniel Roxbury – University of Rhode Island, Brown University, Roger Williams University, and Rhode Island College
- Germanium-based Science and Technology Advancement Research – Dongming Mei – University of South Dakota, Mount Marty University, Black Hills State University, Dakota State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, South Dakota State University





# Changes at NSF

- **NSF is Relocating.** NSF has closed our facility on Eisenhower Avenue. Our new physical address is in the Randolph Building, at 405 Dulany Street in Alexandria.
- **NSF is reorganizing:** NSF has made some changes in how the agency is structured. You can find more information about our reorganization here:  
<https://www.nsf.gov/od/updates/nsf-announces-organizational-realignment>
- **NSF's Merit Review Criteria remain unchanged:** However, we have made changes to some of our processes. Pls may notice receiving fewer reviews and shorter panel summary statements.



# Program Updates

- Merit review from the most recent E-RISE competition (submitted August 2025) is still ongoing.
- The next round of E-RISE submissions are due on Tuesday, August 11, 2026.
- Planning Grant Proposals are still being accepted and considered.
- E-RISE Quarterly PI Meet-Ups will start again in March 2026.



# Round Table Part 1

## Renewal Projects

*“The process for submitting a renewal proposal involves two-steps, and the process is initiated by the project’s lead PI/PD, who will submit by electronic mail to the cognizant NSF program officer a notice of intent to submit a renewal proposal no later than the end of the second quarter of Year 3 (Y3Q2) of the award.”*

What steps are you and your team taking to prepare for the renewal project proposal?



# Round Table Part 1

What steps are you and your team taking to prepare for the renewal project proposal?



## Round Table Part 2

If I knew then what I know now.....

*In this meeting we have a mixture of seasoned Research Infrastructure Improvement PIs, PIs new to RII, and PIs new to E-RISE. Presumably each team has faced unexpected challenges and opportunities. What challenges did you team face and how did you address them? How can NSF be proactive in helping other PIs avoid those same challenges?*

What words of wisdom can our “more experienced” awardees offer to the seven new E-RISE teams?



# Round Table Part 3

Suggestions?

Are there ways that NSF EPSCoR can make award management easier for you?



