



# NEVADA EPSCoR

## NEXUS PROJECT

### SMARTSTART EVALUATION NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 1 QUARTER 3

APRIL 2014

### PROJECT GOALS

- Goal 1: Solar Energy-Water-Environment Nexus Research
- Goal 2: Diversity
- Goal 3: Workforce Development
- Goal 4: External Engagement

This newsletter presents information about the Baseline Survey, Bright Stars workshops in Elko and Carson City, Annual Meeting in Reno, and SCIP program in Reno.



### Nexus Project Universities and Colleges

- Great Basin College - Elko
- Western Nevada College - Carson City
- Truckee Meadows Community College, Desert Research Institute, and University of Nevada - Reno
- Desert Research Institute and University of Nevada - Las Vegas
- Nevada State College and College of Southern Nevada - Henderson

### The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool

Leaders need to begin planning for future sustainability in each of the eight domains of project sustainability.



### 2013-14 Nevada EPSCoR Baseline Survey

The Baseline Survey assesses:

- Impact on participants and institutions in each of the four goal areas.
- Impacts on the scientific community and Nevada.
- Quality of project implementation.
- Collaboration within and across components.

### Annual Meeting March 6, 2014

The Annual Meeting brings together project participants to review progress, plan, and collaborate across components.

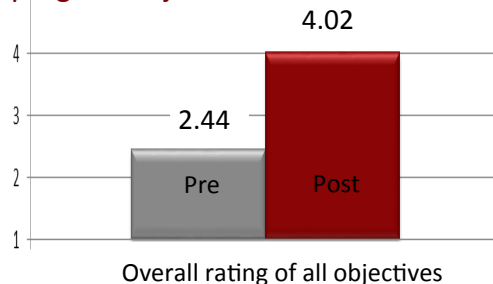
#### Objectives

- Increase knowledge of Year 1 progress .
- Increase knowledge of plans for Year 2.
- Collaborate and increase project integration and synergy.



#### Findings

- Sessions rated **very** or **extremely useful**.
- **Very** or **completely satisfied** with logistics.
- **Statistically significant gains** for all three program objectives.



#### Recommendations

- Provide ample time for breakouts and discussions.
- Post presentation documents on pre-meeting website .
- Assess internet quality prior to meeting.
- Continue to encourage and stress importance of collaboration and project integration.



## Bright Stars Program



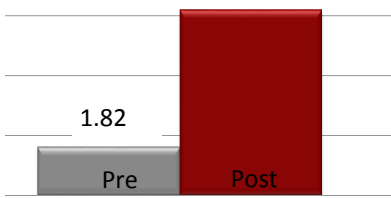
The Bright Stars outreach program provides information to underrepresented minority and female students from primarily undergraduate institutions about STEM, scholarships, and research opportunities.

### Objectives

- Increase students' contacts with EPSCoR staff and faculty.
- Increase knowledge of available support.
- Engage undergraduate students in research opportunities.
- Increase students' knowledge of EPSCoR programs and opportunities.
- Increase students' understanding of how their interests fit within EPSCoR programs.

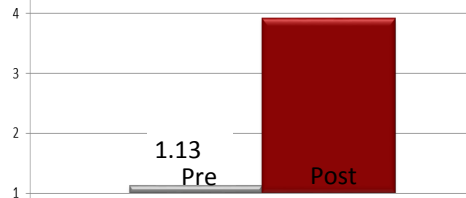
November 15-16, 2013  
Western Nevada College

4.11\*



February 19, 2014  
Great Basin College

3.92\*



Increase in participants' knowledge

### Findings

- Most sessions rated as **very** to **extremely** useful.
- Participants were **completely satisfied** with all logistical aspects.
- **Statistically significant gains** for all program and career objectives.

### Bright Starts Recommendations

- Target outreach to increase attendance of females and URM.
- Encourage presenters to be more interactive.
- Create a list of opportunities and support available to students.
- Connect opportunities with students' individual interest areas.

## STEM Career Investigation Program

### Objective

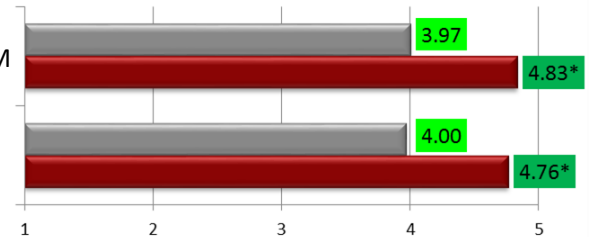
Increase high school students' pursuit of a STEM major and career.



### Findings

- Sessions rated **very** or **extremely** useful.
- **Completely satisfied** with all logistics.
- **Statistically significant gains** for both objective statements.

My commitment to continue STEM studies  
My interest in working on STEM projects



### Project Key Findings and Recommendations

- Discuss the domains of program sustainability.
- Promote more synergy between cyberinfrastructure and components.
- Increase research interfaces and collaboration between components and between universities.
- All teams need to work towards increasing project diversity.



### SCIP Recommendations:

- Outreach to Hispanics.
- Link STEM fields with real-world settings and opportunities.
- Send out periodic updates with new information and links.

### Upcoming Evaluation Activities

- Discuss sustainability domains.
- Evaluate academic year and summer UROP.
- Develop innovation working group evaluation.
- Develop technical writing assistance evaluation and tracking.
- Annual report showing target and annual variances.