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Senator Reid, Nevada educators announce \$20 million for solar panel research

Funding Will Research How To Make Solar Panels More Efficient & Minimize Water Use

NSF Grant Expected To Employ 100 Technicians, Scientists and Students



DRI's Karl Schoen working on a solar panel project. Photo Desert Research Institute

Washington, D.C.- Nevada Senator Harry Reid today joined Chancellor Dan Klaich and officials with the National Science Foundation in announcing a grant for \$20 million which will be awarded to the Nevada System of Higher Education to improve the effectiveness of large-scale solar installations in arid desert lands. The grant comes from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the project, called "The Solar Energy-Water-Environment Nexus in Nevada," will be a collaborative effort between the University of Nevada, Reno, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the Desert Research Institute. The grant provides funding over five years through the NSF-Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) program to make solar panels more efficient and

minimize water use and environmental degradation at solar facilities. The grant is expected to employ at least 100 technicians, students and faculty for five years and it also includes an outreach program to K-12 students and a bridge to college program to encourage students to develop academic skills and career paths in STEM fields.

"This research effort will secure Nevada's position as the undisputed leader in clean energy innovation," said Senator Reid. "Nevada has come a long way in developing our nation's clean energy best practices. This collaborative project will be another important leap towards a more sustainable clean energy future. By bringing together the greatest minds in Nevada, we can overcome obstacles that hamper clean energy development in Nevada and elsewhere. This research can make our technology more efficient and accessible to all communities- no matter their location. I am confident

that their findings will allow our state, and others like Nevada, to harness our vast clean energy potential.”

“This green energy project presents an outstanding opportunity for our students, faculty and all Nevadans as this facility comes on-line in Boulder City,” said Dan Klaich, Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education. “Our researchers will play a critical role in advancing the knowledge base of this emerging technology, but also provide an incredible resource to our underrepresented students in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).” Chancellor Dan Klaich, Nevada System of Higher Education

“This new award from the National Science Foundation will increase Nevada’s capabilities to address critical, as well as practical problems of relevance to large-scale solar installations in arid desert lands,” said Dr. Gayle Dana NSF EPSCoR Project Director, Nevada. “This project will importantly promote education in solar energy, water and environment with programs aimed at pre-college and undergraduate students with a focus to attract underrepresented minority groups, K-12 teachers, and the general public. We are very excited and honored to receive this award and look forward to implementing it over the next five years.”

“The NSF-EPSCoR “NEXUS” project aims to position Nevada at the forefront of research on solar energy and its relation to water and the environment. DRI’s experts in water, earth, ecosystem and atmospheric sciences will play a critical role in making the “NEXUS” a success,” said Dr. Stephen Wells, President of the Desert Research Institute. “DRI is very honored to be a part of this and a leader in environmental research in Nevada.”

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