SVPR’s Corner

Each month when I compose the SVPR’s Corner, I look at my calendar from the month before. It reminds me of how I spent my time and also forces me to reconcile the number of meetings I attend with the milestones and outcomes that guide my work. Like you, there is never enough time in the day and sometimes at night.

So, what did I do in October? I attended the UNH School of Law Board of Trustees meeting, met with the Arctic Research Commission, met with the Steering Committee of the School of Marine Sciences and Ocean Engineering, attended the UNH Budget Forum, traveled to Washington, DC with Jim Ryan (Professor of Physics and space scientist) to attend the Christopher Columbus Awards ceremony and meet with our congressional delegation, attended a farewell ceremony for Jim Squires, President of the Endowment for Health, met with the external team that was conducting a review of the University Instrumentation Center (now part of the Research Computing and Instrumentation Center), met with a group interested in advancing NIH research, had several meetings with the Town of Durham and others regarding the sound being emitted from the Wind Tunnel, met with NOAA Rear Admiral Bailey to discuss the docking...

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Interactions among Climate, Land Use, Ecosystem Services and Society — NH EPSCoR’s new project

Ecosystems in New Hampshire and the surrounding northern forest region provide a wide range of services that are critical to the region’s inhabitants. Forests and aquatic ecosystems provide clean water, biomass for timber and energy production, carbon storage, climate regulation, nutrient regulation, and opportunities for recreation and aesthetic renewal. Ensuring that these benefits can be sustained into the future will require an improved understanding of basic ecosystem processes and their interactions with changes in climate and land management.

Already, climate change is apparent in warmer winter temperatures, less snow, and more extreme storm events. New Hampshire’s rapid population growth in recent decades has resulted in significant changes in land use. Recent shifts in migration and demography have caused a decline in New Hampshire’s forested land area for the first time since the widespread land clearing of the 19th century.

To determine the impact of these combined forces on the environment, and the consequences for the people and industries that rely on ecosystem services such as timber and abundant clean water, the National Science Foundation has awarded a $20 million grant to the NH EPSCoR program for a statewide research and education project.

An innovative team of researchers from UNH, Dartmouth College, St. Anselm College and...
Plymouth State University will bring together expertise from the physical, biological and social sciences to conduct the project, entitled "Interactions among Climate, Land Use, Ecosystem Services and Society.

Environmental data will be collected from a statewide network of land-based and aquatic sensors, an aircraft remote sensing system to measure changes in the forest cover, and measurements made by citizen scientists monitoring water quantity and quality. Environmental data will be combined with data about housing and demographics. Models based on this information will help policy makers determine the tradeoffs among different land uses, and will inform the development of strategies to adapt to the challenges of changes in land use and climate variability.

The project includes a substantive education and outreach effort with partners at Keene State College, White Mountains Community College, and Great Bay Community College. Teachers from K-12 schools and community college faculty and students will have opportunities to join the research teams. After-school programs on hydrological and winter snowpack measurement will be developed for middle school students through Cooperative Extension 4-H.

Students from urban and rural schools will receive scholarships to science camp, internships for undergraduate research and transfer incentives to complete a four-year college degree. Regions with high rates of refugee resettlement and immigration will be the particular focus for outreach and engagement activities. Ultimately, the five-year project will bring together the disciplines of earth, atmospheric, environmental and ecological sciences; ecological economics; sociology; demography; and engineering to provide critical information for state decision makers to better understand the complex interactions of the climate-ecological-human system in New Hampshire.

What is EPSCoR?

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) was established by the National Science Foundation in 1979 to strengthen science and engineering infrastructure in states that historically have received less in federal research grants.

Research and outreach activities funded by the NSF EPSCoR awards in NH have created new collaborations between colleges and universities, with the private sector, and with K-12 educators. Since NH became an EPSCoR state in 2004, $92 million in federal grants has been awarded to build research capacity in New Hampshire.

NH EPSCoR is led by Jan Nisbet, NH EPSCoR State Director; Kevin Gardner, Associate Director; and the NH EPSCoR Statewide Committee, which is composed of 16 members representing industry, the executive and legislative branches of the state government, and higher education in NH. Michelle Gregoire serves as Program Manager.
Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA) assists the faculty in their research endeavors by facilitating the grant application process; coordinating administrative and compliance-related work between campus units on their behalf; and advocating for their interests in dealings with sponsors.

Core functions within SPA include both pre-award services and post-award administration. These include:

**Pre-award services**
- Proposal assistance, review, and approval
- Electronic or paper proposal submissions
- Export control compliance
- Award review, negotiation, and acceptance
- Account activation

**Post-award administration**
- Establishing subawards and subrecipient monitoring
- Financial reporting and invoicing
- Accounts receivable management, collections and cash management
- Cost compliance
- Effort reporting and certification
- Rebudgeting, contract modifications, no-cost extensions, and PI transfers
- Independent audits and financial reviews
- Internal audits and internal controls
- Award closeouts

### SPA STAFF

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<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Victor Sosa</td>
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<td>Accountant III</td>
<td>Karen Maria</td>
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<td>Manager, Research Administration</td>
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<td>Accountant I</td>
<td>Marilyn Qua</td>
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<td>Senior Grant and Contract Administrator</td>
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<td>Subrecipient Agreement Coordinator</td>
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**Comings, Goings, & Goings-on**

After serving as an administrative assistant in SPA for 3 ½ years, **Susan Whitcomb** has moved to a position in the Occupational Therapy Department in the College of Health and Human Services. She will be working directly with students in supporting their growth from students to professionals.

**Jahnay Pickett** has resigned from SPA after 9 years as a Senior Grant and Contract Administrator. She plans to revitalize her marketing consulting company, CenterStone Consulting.

Dr. Bob Russell (Computer Science), in collaboration with the InterOperability Lab (IOL), has been awarded a three-year NSF grant of $473,351 for the project, entitled “SDCI Net: Collaborative Research: An integrated study of datacenter networking and 100 GigE wide-area networking in support of distributed scientific computing.”

As supercomputing speeds increase dramatically, scientists are increasing their scale and range of simulations, resulting in ever growing datasets that need to be moved to local computers at the scientists’ own laboratories. Using a systematic scientific approach, this project will work with scientists involved with the Community Earth System Model (CESM) to determine the reasons for bottlenecks that result in poor and/or inconsistent data transfer. Then, integrated datacenter and wide-area networking solutions to address the identified problems will be developed and shared with CESM and other scientists.

The project is funded by NSF’s Software Development for Cyber Infrastructure Program.