

Scholarship Opportunity for Nevada Community College Students



Announcement for:

Part-time or Full-time Students at College of Southern Nevada;
Great Basin College; Truckee Meadows Community College;
and Western Nevada College (U.S. Citizens Only)

**Submission Deadline: Ongoing until all current positions
are no longer available. Applications received after
February 1, 2016 will not be considered for the Spring 2016
semester.**

*National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
Nevada Space Grant Consortium
Award NNX14AQ94A*



Introduction

The Nevada Space Grant Consortium (NVSGC) has received federal funding through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to support the Community of Practice (CoP) program. The CoP provides scholarship support to part-time and full-time students at the community college who are enrolled in a degree program and plan to pursue education and careers in the fields of science, technology engineering and/or math (STEM). Applicants should be enrolled in a STEM degree program or the equivalent of the available general/liberal arts degree program with a STEM track focus at their institution.

The “**Community of Practice**” program is open to all eligible Nevada community college students. Scholarship recipients become part of a cohort of students that participate in hands on training, research, and collaboration with other campuses. NVSGC scholarship support assists students in pursuing their educational and career goals that may lead to the pursuit of a higher degree or employment in industries that are relevant to NASA and Nevada’s STEM workforce needs.

Ideally, students will be selected to participate for a two full year commitment to the program and then transition into UNLV, UNR or NSC to pursue a bachelor’s degree. Students who cannot commit to the full two year period may also be considered.

This program will:

- Increase the number of community college students who complete a two year Associates degree
- Increase the number of students who obtain employment in a STEM career
- Increase the number of community college students who transfer to a four-year degree program
- Better serve and involve those who are historically underrepresented in the STEM field (women and minorities including: American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Blacks, Hispanics (including persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Central or South American origin), and Pacific Islanders).
- Provide NASA STEM content; create or enhance strategic relationships between the awarded institution and NASA Centers and/or other industry or STEM partners; and build capability of the awarded institution to incorporate NASA STEM content into its curricula and course offerings.

Award Amount: Pending the availability of funds, each award provides ~\$2,000 per semester

Award Period: Spring 2016 and/or Fall 2016

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. Eligibility

This is a merit-based competition and all scholarship recipients must be:

- **U.S. Citizen** (Permanent Residency does not qualify a student for participation.)
- Part-time or Full-time students at CSN, GBC, TMCC, or WNC enrolled in a 2 year degree program (preferably a STEM degree program or the equivalent of the available general/liberal arts degree program)

with a STEM track focus at their institution.)

- Within one or two academic years of completing their Associate's Degree or transferring to a four-year institution
- Able to maintain undergraduate status throughout the entire program and maintain or improve their academic standing throughout the program period
- In good academic standing (i.e. not on probation, no GPA lower than 2.0 without explanation)

B. Award Information

These funds are awarded to support and reward Nevada students for their achievements in academic endeavors related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics and will be administered as a scholarship.

Because acceptance of this award may impact a student's income level to a degree that could affect eligibility for other scholarships, fellowships, and/or student loans, it is the students' responsibility to consult with campus financial aid advisors.

NSHE does not provide tax advice. If you have questions about possible tax liabilities, you may refer to the IRS web site: <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>.

C. Program Guidelines

If selected for funding, each student awardee must be a US citizen and adhere to the following program guidelines:

1. Awardees must be Community College students enrolled in a STEM degree program or the equivalent of the available general/liberal arts degree program with a STEM track focus at their institution. They must make a commitment to participate in regularly scheduled activities for a minimum of 45 hours per semester, as directed by their faculty Campus Lead. Students must make a commitment to be active participants in the Community of Practice if they receive and accept this award.
2. Awardees must participate in periodic surveys as requested by the Nevada Space Grant Office. NASA requires longitudinal reporting once a year to determine the impact funding and participation had on a student's education and career outcomes.
3. If an awardee is engaged in a research project, he/she may be invited to participate in oral presentations or poster sessions. Exact dates and locations will be provided to participants. The talk and/or poster should represent the research done over the course of the funded project period.
4. **At the beginning of participation in the program, each awardee must electronically sign the '[Award Acceptance Guidelines](#)', complete a '[Student Profile Form](#),' and submit a digital photograph of him or herself and a brief (one paragraph) biography to**

nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu.

5. At the end of every semester in the program, each awardee must electronically submit a '[Student Post Survey](#).' (Your updated reports allow NVSGC to remain in compliance with NASA's mandatory reporting requirements throughout the year)

E. Application Preparation Instructions

The following application materials must be submitted through this survey or e-mailed to nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu as outlined below. (If an applicant does not receive confirmation that his/her application was received, please contact nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu to verify receipt of application) Each application must include:

Survey Components:

- 1. Completion of survey questions (on next page)** - Applicants will need to complete the survey and affirm the statements in the provided spaces.
- 2. Biographical Sketch:** - One from each student applicant, limited to one (1) page. Please tell us about yourself, how your interest in science developed and anything else you feel is important for us to know about you.
- 3. Statement of Career Goals and Interests: (1-3 paragraphs)** - Please describe your educational and career goals as they relate to pursuing a career in science. In addition, please describe some specific research interests you have and briefly describe any previous experience you have had with research.

Emailed Components:

- 4. Scanned transcripts or downloaded “unofficial” PDF transcripts from colleges/universities attended. If the applicant is currently a high school student, high school transcripts are acceptable.** Transcripts of all courses completed, including a list of courses currently enrolled in for the semester in which the applicant is applying are required.
- 5. Endorsement letters (2-3) - Letters of recommendation are required.** They may be from professor(s) or advisor(s) who are well acquainted with the candidate. If the candidate is an incoming college freshman, he/she may provide letters from high school teachers/faculty/advisors. These letters may be included in the application packet, or for confidentiality reasons, these letters may be emailed - separate from the application - directly from the person writing the letter to nvspacegrant@nshe.nevada.edu

III. APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be selected for an award based on a multi-campus merit-based review. The screening and selection process will include a review committee that will focus on the following review criteria:

- 1) Expressed motivation and interest in a STEM career & clearly articulated reasons for seeking this appointment.

2) Has the applicant demonstrated a level of academic preparation and excellence, as reflected by appropriate coursework and/or other measures, which would predict success in a research experience?

3) Does the applicant have other background experience and/or extracurricular activities which would help predict success in a research experience?

4) Are the applicant's recommendation letters supportive of his/her participation in the program, including specific reference to their potential and likelihood for success in this program?

Below is a the contact information for Camille Naaktgeboren, Program Lead, and all of the campus Leads for each participating campus. [Please contact your campus lead if you would like to apply for this program and/or if you have questions about this program:](#)

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