



NV Space Grant and NASA EPSCoR Statewide Meeting

April 3, 2026, at University of Nevada, Las Vegas

UNLV Student Union – Ballroom BC

8:30 – 9:00 am	Registration and Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 am	Welcome
9:15 – 10:10 am	Oral research presentations 9:15-9:30 Duane Moser (DRI) “Radiolytic Ecosystems” 9:35-9:50 Ali Saidi-Mehrabad (DRI) “Viruses of Earth’s Continental Deep Subsurface: Analog Study of a Potential Biomarker for Extraterrestrial Life.” 9:55-10:10 James Hall (UNLV) “Astrobiologists of Tomorrow: the development and implementation of a new UNLV course to promote astrobiology”
10:10 – 10:30 am	Break
10:30 – 11:25 am	Oral presentations 10:30-10:45 Astrophysics NOFO project talk 10:50-11:05 Christos Papachristos (UNR) “TBD” 11:10-11:25 Poster session 30 sec oral introductions
11:30 – 12:00 pm	Break and get food for lunch
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch and Keynote talk (delivered virtually): <u>Terry Fong</u>, Chief Roboticist, NASA Ames Research Center, “The Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER)”
1:00 – 1:15 pm	Jason Steffen (UNLV) “Camp Cosmos, a summer camp for middle schoolers”
1:15 - 3:00 pm	Student Poster Session and Networking
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Oral presentations 3:00-3:15 NASA Internship experiences, Andy Obille & Abraham Castaneda 3:20-3:40 Markus Berli (DRI) “The Portable L-band Radiometer (PoLRa): A new method for soil moisture remote-sensing in Nevada” 3:45-4:00 Brittany Kruger (DRI) “A biogeochemical assessment of organic matter priming effect and germination suppression in simulated Martian regolith”

This meeting is supported by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration under the Nevada Space Grant Consortium Agreement No. 80NSSC25M7094 and the NASA EPSCoR RID under Agreement No. 80NSSC22M0037.

4:00 – 4:30 pm	NV Pathways to Success: Overview of NVSGC and NASA EPSCoR, Solicitation schedule; New opportunities for workforce development activities.
4:30 pm	Farewell
4:50 pm	Shuttle

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