

October 4, 2012

iUTAH participants,

This is the first bi-weekly update from the iUTAH EPSCoR Office as a way of more effectively communicating current and pending activities associated with our EPSCoR project.

The EPSCoR Project office complex in Logan is now fully functional. The office is comprised of myself as project Director; Rita Teutonico as State Director and iUTAH Associate Director; Marv Bennett, Business Manager; and as of Monday, Oct. 8, Karen Wolfe, Project Administrator. Karen will now act as overall coordinator of all iUTAH activities.

Rita, Jessica Anderson from UEN, and the very talented iUTAH Communications Team have done a magnificent job of getting our iUTAH web site designed and running. If you have not already done so, please visit 'iutahepscor.org' often. We will post all relevant information and documentation on that site so it is likely to change almost daily. We also have iUtahEPSCoR Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Our Research Focus Areas (RFA) 1, 2 and 3, Cyber-Infrastructure (CI), Workforce Development (WFD), Diversity and External Engagement (EE) teams have done a tremendous job of getting organized and providing a vision for their activities. Each team's work plan can be found on the website under each particular area. There is a two page summary for each team also available in the 'Resources' area of the website called the 'Combined Work Plans'. You will also find the iUTAH project structure (Organizational charts) as well as a list of all participants there. Your individual websites will soon be linked to your name.

The watershed biophysical and social monitoring network design in the Bear, Red Butte and Provo Rivers, now known as GAMUT (Gradients Across Mountain-Urban Transitions) is nearing completion. The education, outreach and diversity activities plans are also almost complete. More specific information will be available soon.

As you know, we recently held our first, annual External Advisory Board meeting. The team was duly impressed with the tremendous progress you all have made and remark that we are off to a very good start. Their report can also be found in the Resources part of the website.

Our next major event is our **NSF and External Assessment Team site visit Oct. 17-19** in Logan. AAAS will head the review meeting with the team leads and project management team to help us begin our Strategic Planning Process. Following that meeting, we will hold an 'All Hands Meeting' (Nov. 16) at the Natural History Museum of Utah. At that meeting, the management team will present the activity-specific work plans as well as report on the NSF site visit and overview for strategic planning. Teams will then assemble to begin the strategic planning process. To be an effective participant in the development of iUTAH, you must attend this meeting.

You recently received a request for your **individual Scope of Work for Year 1 (Aug 2012-July 2013) due to this office on Friday, Oct. 12**. This document has three main purposes. First, it will allow the leadership team to gauge your individual involvement. It will also provide us with a first-cut of deliverables that we can communicate to NSF and the Assessment team during our site visit October 17-19. Our Strategic Plan will be used to assess us on an annual basis so we must be accurate in the expectations. Finally, it allows each of you to provide us with input regarding how we might seek funds for additional activities that have not yet been accounted for.

This document is not meant to be overly burdensome, but it is required for both our strategic planning process and as way for us to assess and justify the outcomes from the support you are being provided. Examples of deliverables that you might want to include are: planning and other meetings already attended; planning and other meetings you will attend or hold; students you will engage; stakeholders you will engage; as well as the more common scholarly metrics like presentations, publications, data sets, models or other scholarly output. Please be as specific as possible as we wish to tally up the totals as a first estimate of deliverables. Remember, whether you are receiving direct monetary support or providing ‘match,’ we are required to justify your involvement via your deliverables to NSF.

I hope you find this bi-weekly letter useful and that it provides a mechanism for more inclusive and effective communication.

Best,

Todd A Crawl and Rita A. Teutonico