

# POST-DOC LEADERSHIP

NSF HIGHLIGHTS—TRACK 1 EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## TITLE

2015 Post-Doc Leadership Workshop

## OUTCOME

Participants came away from the workshop with new skills and a new perspective on teaching and communication. This included mock interviews with real media professionals, how to run an interactive classroom rather than a traditional lecture-style classroom, and a session on facilitating productive meetings where we learned and participated in activities that narrowed down ideas relating to the most important mentoring for postdocs and ideas for new research.

## IMPACT/BENEFITS

The participants not only learned new and beneficial skills—by staying at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge together as a group over the three-day period, participants were able to network with each other. Many discussed research ideas, work-life balance, and shared experiences in academia.

## EXPLANATION

The New Mexico EPSCoR Post-Doc Leadership Workshop is an innovative 3-day intensive, residential program designed to enhance the professional skills of post-doctoral scholars in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. The workshop is open to post-doctoral scholars in STEM fields from research institutions in New Mexico or our partner EPSCoR states of Nevada and Idaho. The workshop uses interactive approaches to develop leadership skills that contribute to post doc career development and success. Sessions for over twenty postdoctoral fellows at the 2015 workshop included:

- Meeting Facilitation & Leadership: provides tools and strategies to build modern skills
- Communicating Science to the Media: engages participants in “mock” interviews about their research with members of TV, radio, and print media
- Planning & Writing Proposals: provides examples of experience with merit review & tips for writing successful proposals
- Effective Teaching in Higher Education: explains strategies for transforming courses to improve student learning, motivation, and retention in STEM

- Post-doc Career Planning: introduces participants to tools and resources for career planning and development
- Productivity Tools & Strategies: shares tools to increase productivity, plan successful proposals, and manage research projects
- Mentoring Students: interactive session using case studies of mentoring in higher education STEM areas
- Research Ethics: discussions of scenarios of ethically challenging situations for post-docs
- Entrepreneurship: provides an introduction to entrepreneurship for STEM professionals

