

# Charge to Track 2 Tri-State Consortium External Advisory Committee (EAC):

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## **Background:**

On September 15, 2009, Idaho, Nevada, and New Mexico – the Tri-state Consortium – received a collaborative award of \$6 million from the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR). The three-year project will advance computing capabilities and enhance cyber interconnection at the Tri-state higher education institutions. The primary goal is to promote knowledge transfer to scientists, educators, students, and citizens within and beyond the Consortium by enhancing state cyberinfrastructure, and to enable the community science that is required to address regional to global scientific and societal challenges related to climate change. To meet this goal, the Consortium has three high priority objectives: 1) increase connectivity and bandwidth; 2) enhance data and model interoperability; and 3) utilize cyberinfrastructure to integrate research with education. The overarching outcome will be to enhance the ability for the Tri-state Consortium to better address 21<sup>st</sup> Century grand scientific and societal challenges related to climate change through increased competitiveness for research funding and sustained partnerships among the three states.

## **Charge:**

The External Advisory Committee is made up of eight national experts in the project’s focus areas. We ask that EAC members make three on-campus external site visits, one for each year of the grant. The EAC will: (1) review progress toward achieving outcomes of the projects; (2) make constructive suggestions for improving and/or changing the direction of the work underway; and (3) provide suggestions for collaborations within and outside the Tri-state region, as well as suggestions for funding opportunities appropriate to our project focus. Shortly after each annual EAC meeting we ask that the committee provide the Leadership Team with a 3-5 page report including the following elements: general overview of the project and its progress, and a summary of project strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and suggestions.