

October 12, 2017

Dear Colleague,

Congratulations on your newly funded EarthCube project, ICEBERG: Imagery
Cyberinfrastructure and Extensible Building-Blocks to Enhance Research in the Geosciences!

The EarthCube Leadership Council would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the EarthCube community. With 62 funded projects, 65 participating universities, organizations, and institutions, there is always a lot going on. This letter will outline ways for you to integrate into EarthCube so that you may:

- broaden the impact of your work;
- enhance the success of your project;
- participate in EarthCube governance and help shape the future of geoscience.

First, we'd like call your attention to the [EarthCube Funded Projects Requirements](#) that was previously sent to you by NSF and outlines their expectations concerning reporting, EarthCube Governance participation, and attendance of the annual EarthCube All Hands Meetings (AHM) (more information on the AHM below.)

Next, we'd like to invite you to become a member of the [EarthCube site](#) if you haven't already. Your membership will allow you quick access to numerous mailing lists for other projects, working groups, and governance groups so you can keep up to date on what others in our community are doing. You'll also have access to community calendars, upcoming telecons, funding opportunities, and online forums for working groups. Early next week you will receive an email from the ESSO Communications Office with information about your Project's Group Pages, as well as a link to sign up for EarthCube.org site membership if you are not already a member.

EarthCube has two newsletters we encourage you to subscribe to: [The EarthCube Monthly Community Newsletter](#) will keep you up to date on upcoming conferences and events; project news, and funding opportunities, and the [EarthCube Monday Update](#) posts links to the weekly telecon schedules and news from the EarthCube Governance Groups (see below.)

You will want to familiarize yourself with EarthCube's history, vision and mission statements, and strategic plans. Our website currently houses over [300 documents](#) that have been developed over the first five years of EarthCube, but we recommend you start with these:

- [EarthCube: Past, Present and Future](#) [ESSO will be updating this within the next few months to include your project]
- [EarthCube Strategic Science Plan: Geoscience 2020](#)
- [EarthCube Strategic Technology Plan](#)

What's New in 2017

Since the last welcome letter was sent to new projects in November 2016, EarthCube has made solid strides towards a Unified Architecture to fulfill NSF's vision of a community-driven, dynamic cyberinfrastructure to improve and facilitate interdisciplinary research in the geosciences. The ESSO Technical Officer, in coordination with the Science Committee, Technology and Architecture Committee and Council of Data Facilities, will be working with all 62 EarthCube projects to find synergies amongst the technologies being developed and the science drivers that have been identified by the community, and incorporate them as the EarthCube Unified Architecture is developed.

Participate in EarthCube Governance

Except for funded project work and the functions of the [EarthCube Science Support Office](#), all EarthCube planning and governance activities are done by volunteers serving on one of our governance groups: Science Committee, Technology and Architecture Committee, Council of Data Facilities, Liaison Committee, and Engagement Team. All groups are open to new members, and work to promote collaborations between academic geoscience and technology communities in EarthCube. They work together via a mailing list and monthly (or semi-monthly) virtual meetings, and we encourage you to sign up for the mailing list of the groups that interest you, and attend their telecons. Regardless of your area of interest, there are ample opportunities to work with like-minded people.

Two specific committees of note are the [Technology and Architecture Committee](#) and the [Science Committee](#). If your project is developing new cyberinfrastructure (e.g., Building Blocks), the EarthCube Science Committee can help you engage geoscientists to use and test this new EarthCube infrastructure, and the EarthCube Technology and Architecture Committee can help you learn about standards and complementary efforts. If your project is working to build a

scientific community (e.g., Research Coordination Networks), the EarthCube Science Committee can help you connect with other EarthCube technologies to help you achieve your science goals.

We also have three other groups you may be interested in: The [Council of Data Facilities](#) is a federation of existing and emerging geoscience data facilities that serve as a foundation for EarthCube and cyberinfrastructure for the geosciences; the [Liaison Team](#) seeks to establish partnerships with existing cyber-initiatives, agencies, associations, and other efforts external to the NSF core constituency, including international activities as well as the private sector. The role of the [Engagement Team](#) is to encourage involvement in EarthCube by proactively reaching out to the geoscience community.

Being a participant can be energizing, and leading and organizing activities helps move the community forward. We expect direct involvement in working groups from projects funded by EarthCube or by NSF in general. We welcome everyone's participation, and are grateful for suggestions to grow the EarthCube community and its activities. Please explore our Get Involved page for more ideas and links.

EarthCube All Hands Meeting

Our next annual EarthCube All Hands Meeting will be in Alexandria, Virginia from June 6-8 2018. Attendance of the AHM by EarthCube Funded Projects is expected by NSF as part of your award, and is an excellent opportunity to present your work and learn more about everything that is happening in EarthCube in detail. Watch the EarthCube newsletters for updates and announcements, and make plans for you and your collaborators to attend.

In addition, EarthCube offers some specific ongoing opportunities to disseminate your work or to learn from others. These include:

EarthCube Tools Webinar Series

The Webinar Series: [Doing Geoscience with EarthCube Tools](#) is a free, monthly webinar that highlights newly developed or developing EarthCube tools through practical demonstration of their applications to scientific questions. The webinars are specifically aimed at scientists who might otherwise have limited exposure to EarthCube. Each webinar in this series highlights a different EarthCube-funded project, with presentations by project leaders followed by ample time for Q&A. If you are developing a new EarthCube funded technology, we encourage you to contact the Science Committee and sign up to present for this webinar series.

Funding Opportunities

EarthCube offers several funding opportunities to promote community engagement and participation in EarthCube. Please see individual webpages for details. The Distinguished Lecturer Program provides funds to a host institution to offset costs of sponsoring an EarthCube Distinguished Lecturer, the Early Career Travel Grant provides reimbursement funds to individuals (\$500) or underrepresented minorities (\$1000) to present or discuss their EarthCube-related work at professional meetings, workshops or conferences held in the United States, and the [Visiting Scholar] Program provides funding to students and early-career scientists to engage directly with EarthCube Building Block projects. For more information, please visit our [Funding Opportunities page](#).

How Can EarthCube Support Your Research?

What new technological tools, resources, or capabilities could make more your research tasks more efficient? Fill out this [short form](#) and let us know.

Again, welcome to EarthCube, and we are looking forward to working with you. The EarthCube Science Support Office, the Leadership Council, and all the governance group chairs are happy to answer your questions.

Best regards,
Leadership Council

Kerstin Lehnert, *Chair*
Tim Ahern
Janet Fredericks
Simon Goring
Sara Graves
Anna Kelbert
Rebecca Koskela
Scott Peckham
Mohan Ramamurthy
Ken Rubin
D. Sarah Stamps