To: UVM faculty:

Re: Call for Pre-proposals for the NSF EPSCoR FY 2020 RII Track-2 FEC (Focused EPSCoR Collaborations)

The National Science Foundation Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF EPSCoR) has announced the following funding opportunity: Research Infrastructure Improvement Program Track-2 Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (RII Track-2 FEC)

- All proposals must promote collaborations among researchers in EPSCoR jurisdictions and emphasize the recruitment/development of diverse early career faculty and STEM education and workforce development on the single topic: “Harnessing the Data Revolution to solve problems of national importance.” – one of NSF’s Ten Big Ideas
- The number of submissions per state is unlimited but there can be only one per institution.
- An investigator cannot be PI or co-PI on more than one proposal
- Each proposal must have a collaborator from an institution in a different RII-eligible EPSCoR jurisdiction as Co-PI. The second institution will be issued a subcontract.

If selected to move forward, a required Letter of Intent is due December 20, 2019 and a Full proposal is due January 24, 2020 to the NSF.

Please note that you may be a Co-PI on a proposal with a PI from another EPSCoR eligible state, but you are not allowed to be PI or co-PI on more than one proposal; it’s either one or the other.

This announcement is to allow you as much time as possible for preparation for the pre-proposal process. The FY 2020 RFP can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20504/nsf20504.pdf

We ask that you submit the following via epscor@uvm.edu
1) By 4 pm on November 22, 2019, a 5-page pre-proposal that addresses:
   - A topic area consistent with the NSF FYI 2020 priority programmatic focus area: “Harnessing the Data Revolution (HDR) to solve problems of national importance.”
   - A plan for collaboration with at least one Co-PI from an academic institution or organization in a different RII-eligible EPSCoR jurisdiction, preferably with a history of collaboration with the PI. Describe the history of the collaboration.
   - A plan for the recruitment/development of diverse early career faculty and STEM education and workforce development on the single topic HDR to solve problems of national importance.
   - The impact on the state’s research infrastructure to drive discovery and build sustainable STEM capacity.

There will be a rapid review of the pre-proposals by a panel and a decision will be by December 6, 2019 regarding which proposal will move forward to NSF.