



FRANK DAVIS/MARTY DOWNS  
LTER SCIENCE COUNCIL  
MAY 15-17, 2018

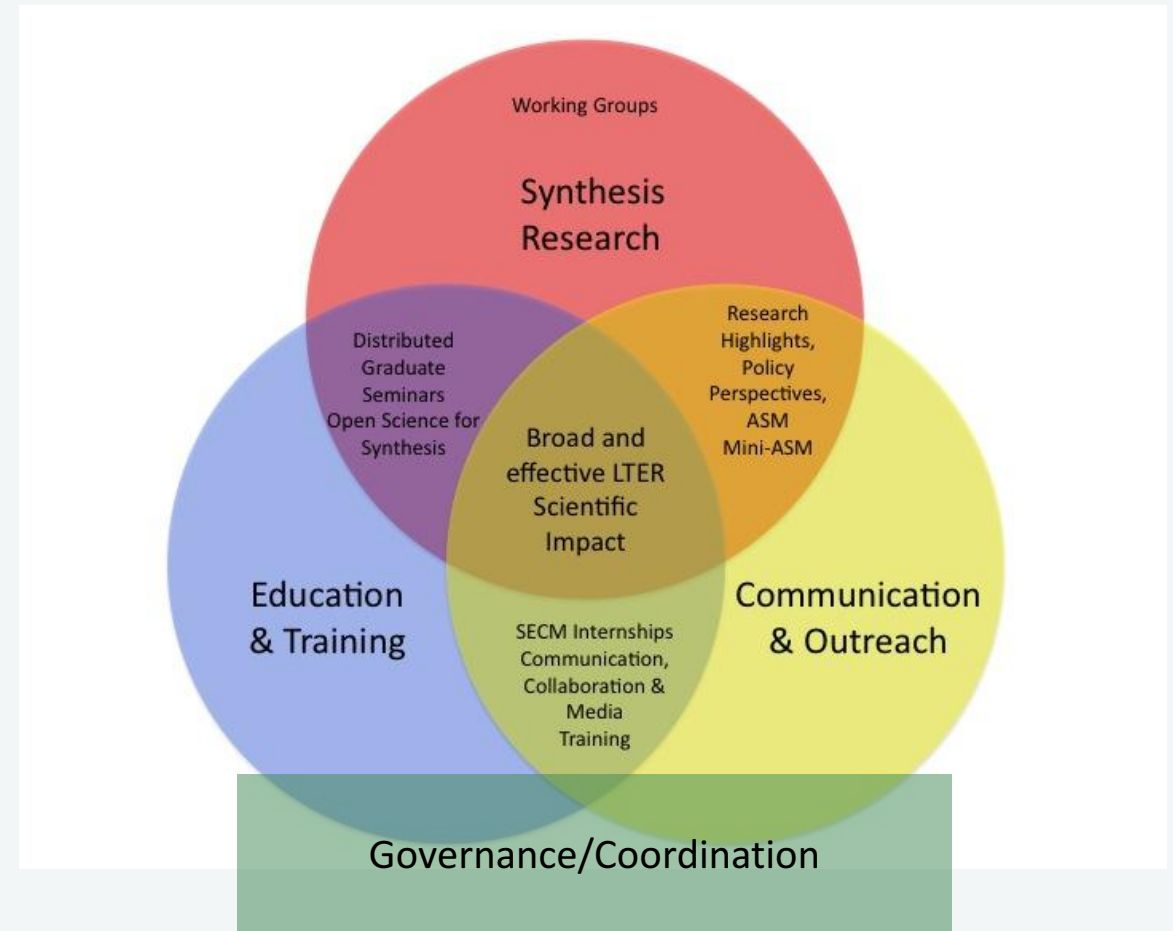


# NCO Mission

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“to foster and coordinate research, education, and outreach activities across the Network as well as facilitate Network governance”  
and “to promote the LTER program both nationally and internationally.”

NSF Solicitation 15-535





# NCO Team



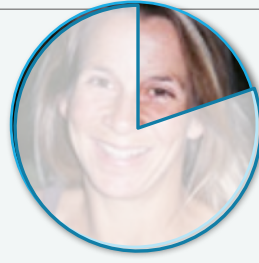
Frank Davis  
Exec. Director



Marty Downs  
Dep. Director,  
Communications



Stacy Rebich  
Hespanha  
Evaluation



Jenn Caselle  
Research  
Coordination



Kristen Weiss  
Communications  
Coordinator



Matt Jones  
Informatics  
training



Mark  
Schildhauer  
Computing



Julien Brun  
Scientific  
Programmer



Sam Norlin  
Education and  
Training

# NCEAS Support



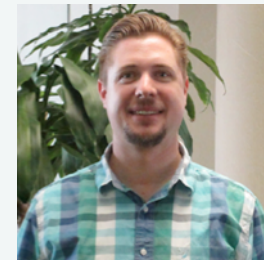
Julia Niessen  
Business Officer



Thomas Hetmank  
Programmer/Analyst



Ana Peters  
Travel Coordinator



Nick Outin  
Computer Network Admin

# Synthesis

- Stream Elemental Cycling
  - Metacommunities
  - Communities-to-Ecosystems
  - Synchrony & Stability
  - Biodiversity & Productivity
  - Advancing Soil Organic Matter Research
- 
- Webinars:
    - 642 registrations;
    - 311 attendees;
    - 229 YouTube views;
    - 19 countries



“A synthesis to identify how metacommunity dynamics mediate community responses to disturbance across the ecosystems represented in the LTER network”  
September 2016

# Site participation in Synthesis Working Groups: 2016-17

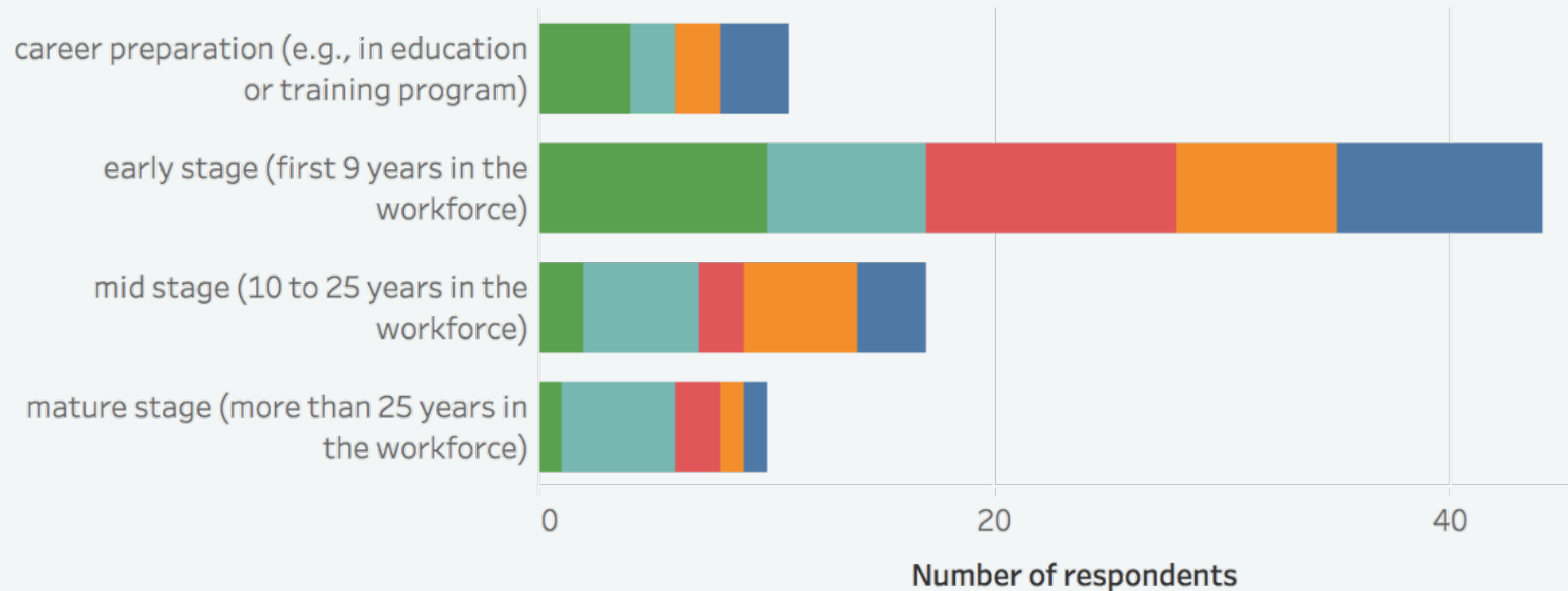
		Metacommunities	C2E	Streams	Synchrony	Productivity-Biodiversity	SOM
Andrews Forest LTER	AND						
Arctic LTER	ARC						
Baltimore Ecosystem Study	BES						
Bonanza Creek LTER	BNZ						
California Current Ecosystem LTER	CCE						
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve	CDR						
Central Arizona - Phoenix LTER	CAP						
Coweeta LTER	CWT						
Florida Coastal Everglades LTER	FCE						
Georgia Coastal Ecosystems LTER	GCE						
Harvard Forest LTER	HFR						
Hubbard Brook LTER	HBR						
Jornada Basin LTER	JRN						
Kellogg Biological Station LTER	KBS						
Konza Prairie LTER	KNZ						
Luquillo LTER	LUQ						
McMurdo Dry Valleys LTER	MCM						
Moorea Coral Reef LTER	MCR						
Niwot Ridge LTER	NWT						
North Temperate Lakes LTER	NTL						
Palmer Antarctica LTER	PAL						
Plum Island Ecosystems LTER	PIE						
Santa Barbara Coastal LTER	SBC						
Sevilleta LTER	SEV						
Shortgrass Steppe	SGS						
Virginia Coast Reserve LTER	VCR						

# Data sets for SWG

Working Group	# LTER Data Sets	# Non-LTER Data Sets	Total
Stream Elemental Cycling	13	6	19
Metacommunities	7	3	10
Communities-to-ecosystems	32	51	83
Synchrony and Stability	12	3	15
Biodiversity & Productivity	?	?	> 400
Soil Organic Matter	13	7 (CZO)	20

# Working group demography – career stage

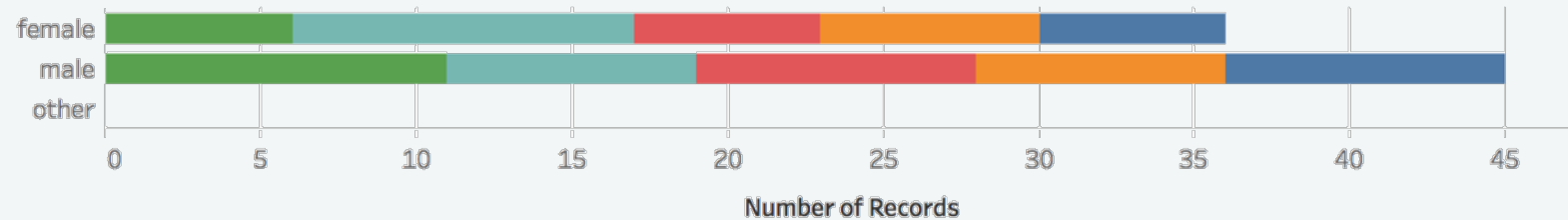
How would you describe your current stage in your career?



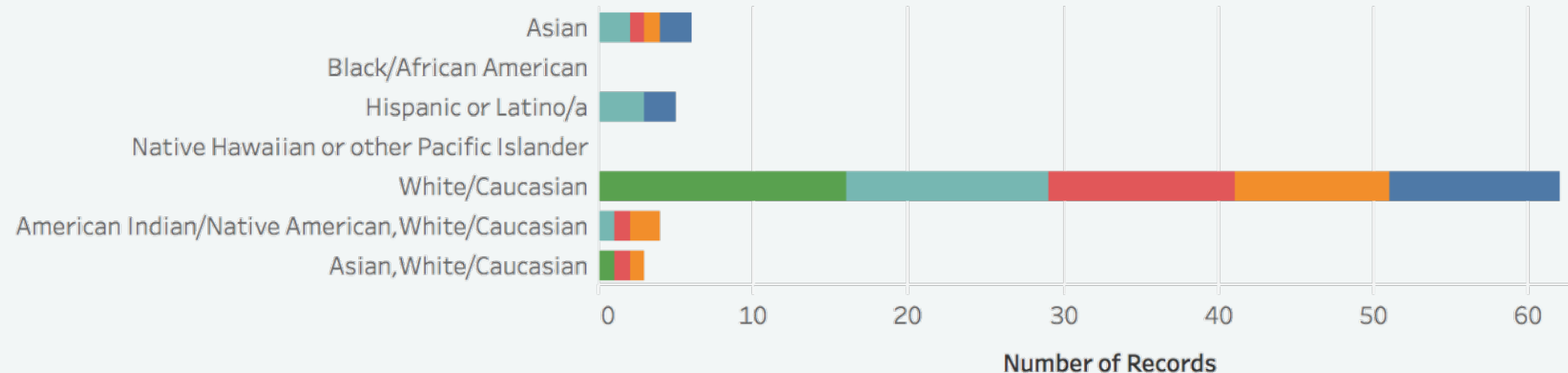
# Working group demography - diversity

## Gender and sexual identity

Do you think of yourself as \_\_\_\_\_? (check all that apply)



Do you think of yourself as \_\_\_\_\_? (please select one or more)





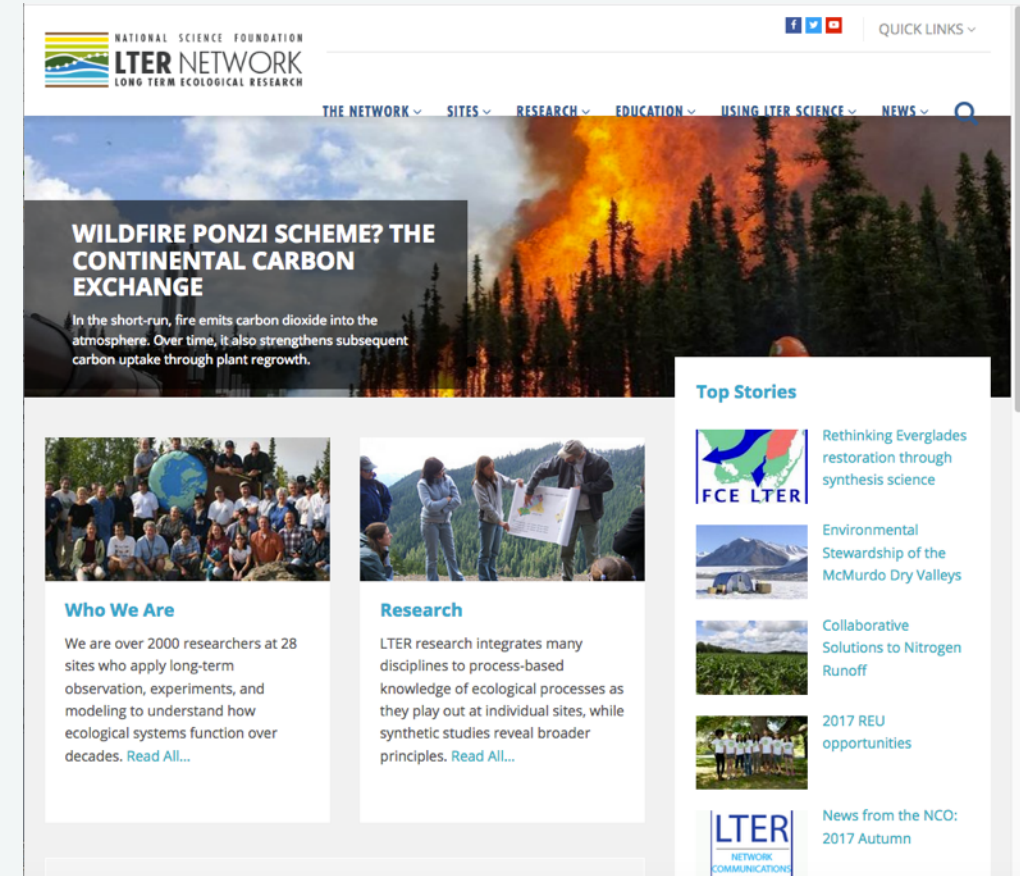
# Looking Ahead: Synthesis in Years 3-4

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- Distributed Graduate Seminar
- Seeking funds for additional working groups, especially resulting from ASM

# Communications and Outreach

- New Logo
- [Science Update](#) — bimonthly to a MailChimp list of 2332 subscribers)
- [News from the NCO](#) — alternate months to the all-lter@lternet.edu list of 2410 recipients
- [LTERnet rebuild](#), incorporating intranet, gallery, siteDB, etc.
- [Social media](#) (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube)
- Print materials (Brochure, Schoolyard Series catalog, REU recruiting materials)



# Communications and Outreach Results

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## Website (May 2017-May 2018)

Total Users: **44,010**

Total Page Views: **141, 310**

Avg. Pages/session: **2.3**

**58%** of visitors find page through search

## Newsletter (May 2017-May 2018)

Subscribers: **2334**

Open rate: **27.4%** (industry avg 16.3%)

Click rate: **6.3%** (industry average 1.8%)

## Twitter

- Followers: 2557
- Avg. new followers/month: 62
- Avg monthly engagements: 1523

## Facebook

- Followers: 684
- Education Group (16 members)
- Grad Student Group (47 members)

## YouTube

Video views: 331 (most from webinars)

# Communications and Outreach in Years 3-4

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- Increase external communication effort
  - Especially outreach to management agencies and professionals
- Increase coordination among site outreach programs
- Increase training effort (including ASM)
- Site-based fellowship opportunities
- Relationships with other networks
  - ILTER
  - NEON
  - CZO



# Training

- Communications

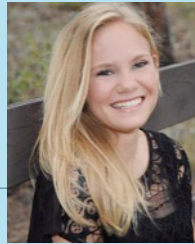
- NCO Interns
- Online classes
- Video
- Communications Planning
- ESA workshops
- Video
- Hands-on curriculum

- Open Science

- Synthesis

- 2018 Webinar Series

## Communications



Devin Spencer



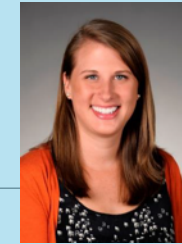
Melissa Maggass



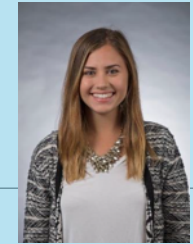
Tova Handelman



Terra Alpaugh



Nicole Poletto



Tia Kordell



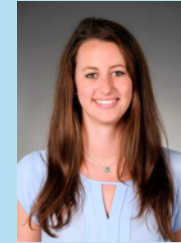
Alina Werth



Alex Uribe



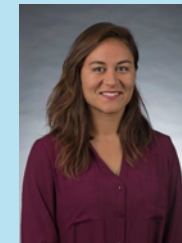
Madison Harris



Erin O'Reilly



Soham Mistry



Amanda Kelley



Alex Jamis

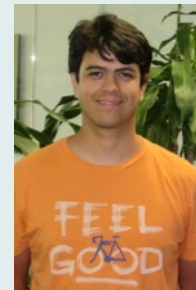


Erika Carlos

## Data



Timothy  
Nguyen



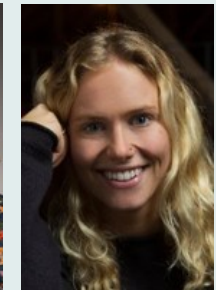
Gabriel  
Daldegan



Margaux  
Sleckman



Celine  
Mol



Kendall  
Miller

# Education and Public Participation

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- Education and Outreach Committee
- Online Resources
  - Digital Library coordination
    - [Data Nuggets](#)
    - Other curriculum resources
  - [Site Activities Table](#)
- ESA Workshops
- [Schoolyard Book Series](#)
- [REU Programs](#)
  - Promotion
  - Cross-site efforts
- Partnerships



Credit: SBC-LTER

# Promoting Diversity

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- NCO Diversity Strategy
- Diversity Committee
  - Site Activities & Diversity Plans
  - Recruitment
  - Engagement
  - Partnerships
- Online Resources



# Support of LTER Governance

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Committee	Funds per year	NCO Contact or Staffing
Executive Board/ Science Council	~\$70,000	FD/MD
Information Management	\$20,000	MJ/JB/MD
Education	\$8000	MD/SN
Diversity	\$3000	MD
ILTER	\$8000	FD/MD
Communications	\$3000	MD/KW
Graduate Student	\$3000	KW

## Events

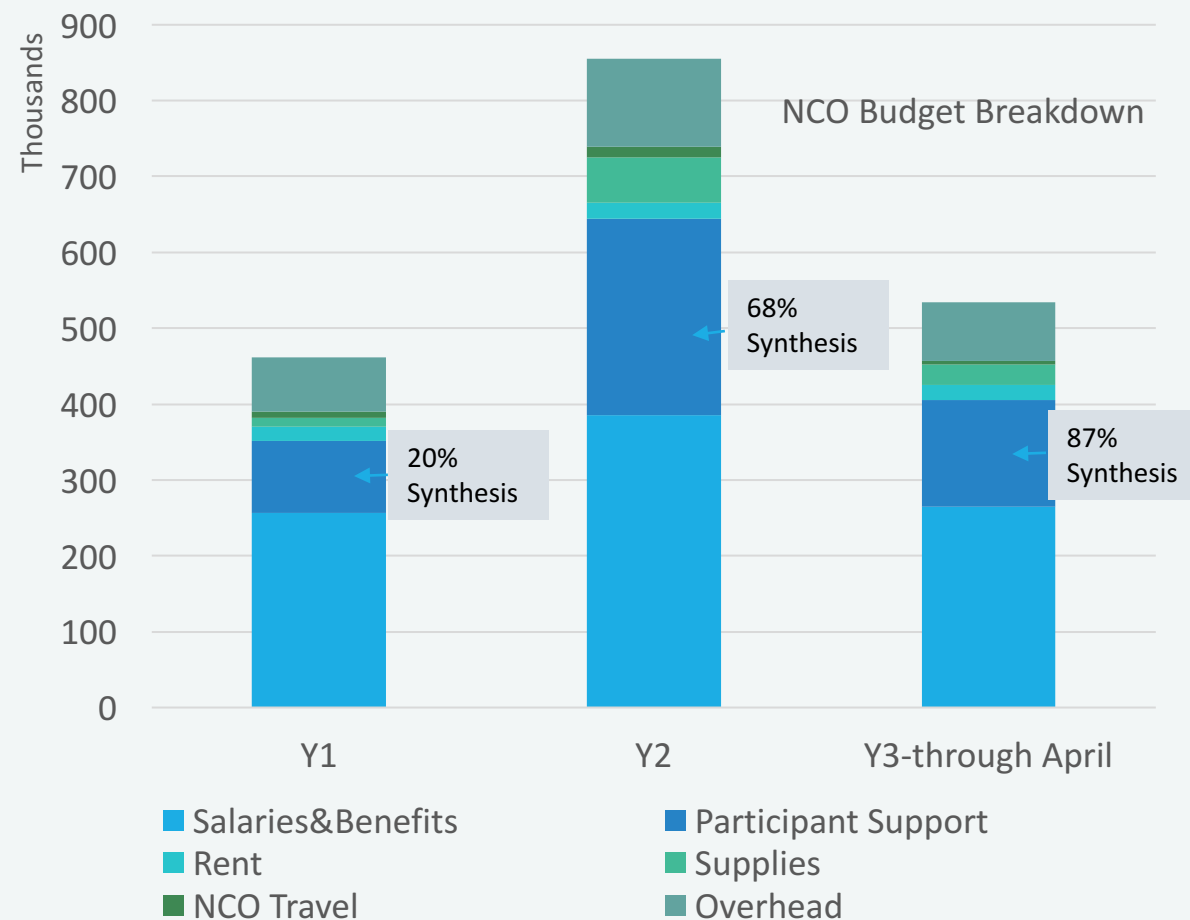
- NSF Symposium
- Information Manager's meeting
- Science Council
- ASM 2018



# LNCO Budget Allocation, Yrs 1, 2 and 3 (partial)

(\$1,850,611 + \$192,013 suppl = \$2,042,624)

Salary and Benefits	49%
Participant Support (Synthesis)	17%
Participant Support (Governance)	10%
Indirect Costs	14%
Rent	3%
Equipment and Supplies (includes Web design)	5%
NCO Travel	1%



# Summary points

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- NCO goals and objectives largely unchanged from proposal
- Transition from LNO to NCO and EDI completed
- LTER communications significantly improved
- Synthesis Working Group process implemented successfully
  - Large unmet demand
  - Planning a Distributed Graduate Seminar
- Training and education efforts expanding
- Diversity efforts given increased visibility and emphasis
- Governance has been streamlined, NCO working well with EB and committees

# Discussion

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