

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

FULL NAME: Christopher M. Lawson

TITLE/AFFILIATIONS: Executive Director, Alabama EPSCoR
Director, Alabama Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP)
Professor of Physics / University of Alabama at Birmingham

Executive Director of Alabama EPSCoR: Since September of 2010, Dr. Lawson has served as Executive Director of Alabama EPSCoR (ALEPSCoR). He has also served as Co-Director or Associate Director of Alabama EPSCoR for a total of seven years prior to becoming Executive Director. The Executive Director is the chief administrative officer of ALEPSCoR, and is appointed by the ALEPSCoR Steering Committee (AESC) which consists of the Vice Presidents for Research for the seven Alabama Ph.D. granting institutions and a state government representative. As ALEPSCoR Executive Director, Dr. Lawson has overall responsibility and authority for the day-to-day operation, management and coordination of the ALEPSCoR program, which consists of over \$15M of research expenditures in 2010, with over \$12M of new awards in that year. The Executive Director is responsible for constructing and administering a budget that best serves the needs of all federally funded EPSCoR programs and providing reports to the Alabama Commission for Higher Education (ACHE), fiscal agent for state funds in support of EPSCoR, on the expenditure of state funds.

Director of the Graduate Research Scholars Program (GRSP): Since early in 2009, Dr. Lawson has been Director of the Alabama Commission for Higher Education (ACHE) funded GRSP program, which provides approximately \$1M per year to provide research stipends for Alabama graduate students (\$25,000/year per student) performing EPSCoR related scientific research. The GRSP program has provided over \$4M to fund graduate fellowships for over 130 exceptional graduate students (some with multi-year support), leading to 73 Ph.D. degrees and 27 M.S. degrees by the end of 2011. In his role as GRSP Director, Dr. Lawson has written and published the GRSP Request for Proposals (RFP) and developed the proposal requirements, developed the selection criteria, developed the proposal review process, supervised the selection process, and overseen the award process and production of the necessary reports to ACHE.

Professor of Physics: Dr. Lawson has been a full Professor of Physics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) since 1997. He is a devoted teacher, and he continues to teach undergraduate College Physics and graduate Optics. Dr. Lawson is an accomplished researcher in the field of optical sensing and nonlinear optics, and has authored or co-authored 10 books or book chapters and 70 publications, and he has been Principle Investigator (PI) of over \$11M of research funding and PI or co-PI for over \$32M of research funding. He established the UAB Center for Optical Sensors and Spectroscopies (COSS), which focuses developing ultra-sensitive trace-gas detection using new types of laser spectroscopy based systems. Applications include detection of explosives, chemical and biological warfare agents and their precursors, industrial process control, and measurement of medically important molecular compounds in the exhaled breath of patients.