

## Annual conference advances EQUATE research

*This year's theme: Topology and Valley-Driven Quantum Phenomena.*

The [2023 Nebraska Research and Innovation Conference \(NRIC\)](#) on March 17 gathered nearly 100 attendees, including dozens from the Emergent Quantum Materials and Technologies (EQUATE) project—a collaboration funded by the National Science Foundation. The event was conducted by Nebraska EPSCoR and led by Xia Hong, associate professor with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) Department of Physics and Astronomy; Hong leads EQUATE's Focused Research Group (FRG) 1.

Speakers for this year's NRIC event came from across the nation to share their expertise on Topology and Valley-Driven Quantum Phenomena. The event's poster sessions also featured nearly 40 presentations of research by Nebraska's EQUATE students and postdoctoral researchers.

Speakers and EQUATE leaders reviewed the posters, and the following awards were announced:

- FIRST PLACE (\$250 prize) – Ufuk Kilic (UNL Electrical and Computer Engineering)
- SECOND PLACE (\$150 prize) – TIE, Kai Huang and Jia Wang (both from UNL Physics and Astronomy)
- THIRD PLACE (\$100 prize) – TIE, Kun Wang (UNL Physics and Astronomy) and Megan Stokey (UNL Electrical and Computer Engineering)



*NRIC 2023 poster award recipients included (from left) Kun Wang, Kai Huang, Ufuk Kilic, and Jia Wang.*