Early Career Award: A case study in graduate student professional development

In 2015 the EarthCube Science Committee initiated the Early Career Award, which is a funding opportunity for early career investigators to visit an EarthCube Building Block team. In my case, I am benefiting from an Early Career Award that was aimed at linking my research on volcano-tectonic interactions with the EarthCube cyberinfrastructure CHORDS (Cloud-Hosted Services for Real-Time Data in the Geosciences). At this stage we have succeeded in this effort and are beginning to see potential volcanic signals. In this presentation I will provide my perspective on the Early Career Award, which has afforded me several opportunities to improve my development as a graduate researcher and professional. These opportunities include the chance to work on an interdisciplinary team with the CHORDS architects, expand my research to utilize real-time positioning data, and present my research to the EarthCube community at the 2016 All-Hands Meeting. These circumstances have allowed me to broaden my professional network, which may lend to future projects and post-graduate employment, and learn to bridge the language gap between architects, data scientists, and geoscientists. My professional growth in the interdisciplinary EarthCube community that I have made over the last year would not have been possible without the support of this EarthCube Early Career Award.