

CALL FOR PROPOSALS—RESEARCH INVESTMENT AWARDS
Support for Emerging Areas of Research
FY 2018

1. BACKGROUND

In FY 2018 the Office of the Vice President for Research(OVPR) will invest in UNM research by supporting projects that are likely to increase the impact and depth of research in emerging areas of cross-cutting excellence that were identified in the Research Excellence Working Group Report (<http://research.unm.edu/strategic-plan>). *N.B.:* this funding opportunity is distinct from, and complements, funding from the Research Allocations Committee (<http://rac.unm.edu>).

As noted in *Research 2020*, the UNM Main Campus Research Strategic Plan, the emerging areas of research on which the OVPR will focus in FY 2018 are:

Renewable Energy: This multi-disciplinary area draws upon strengths in numerous departments and disciplines across campus, including (but not limited to) cross-cutting areas such as materials science, nanoscience, optics and photonics, climate science, advanced manufacturing, computational science, resource economics and cybersecurity. Additional research in this broad area, particularly in collaboration with the DOE national labs and AFRL, has the potential to make substantial contributions to renewable energy technologies and infrastructure.

Social and Cultural Place-based Research Relating to the Southwest: The rich cultural heritage of New Mexico shapes much of the UNM research & scholarly activity relating to the arts, humanities, social sciences, and languages. There are excellent, place-based research programs related to education, health and addiction, and issues of poverty, as well as those that address diverse populations, including Native, Hispanic and rural communities. Growth in this research area will directly benefit communities throughout New Mexico and the region.

Water in the West: Research on water in the west at UNM draws upon broad expertise surrounding water scarcity in the arid Southwest and its effect on policy, the environment, and communities. Research relates not only to those seeking solutions to water scarcity through engineering, natural sciences, planning, landscaping and sustainability studies, but also those who model its implications computationally, who explore it in art, who study its consequences throughout history and across different communities, and who work to develop policy dealing with this pervasive issue. Additional investment in this area will enable UNM to become a leader in research with local and global significance.

Proposals will be accepted for activities that position and maximize UNM to compete successfully for external funding for research within these areas. Examples of types of projects to be supported include, but are not limited to the following:

Research Seed Awards: maximum \$20,000

Workshops: maximum \$5,000

Visiting Scholars/Lectures: maximum \$3,000

Each funded project must result in an innovative proposal for extramural funding to be submitted to a funding agency or foundation. Support is aimed at projects that will lead to the collaborative development and testing of important, breakthrough ideas and theories and the investigation of relevant social issues.

Seed award proposals should be hypothesis or problem-driven, focusing on some aspect(s) of the complex challenges involved in the research focus area. Proposals must have significant scientific merit and build or strengthen cross-disciplinary research partnerships. Funding will support gathering and/or analyzing data that will serve as the foundation for more extensive research projects.

Workshop proposals must focus on exploratory and early-stage research that represents inquiry into new areas or translation of research into new applications.

Proposals for *Visiting Scholars/Lectures* will identify an individual with exceptional expertise beyond what is available at UNM, and that is directly relevant to a target extramural funding opportunity and to multiple departments/programs. The proposal must demonstrate that the invited scholar cannot be hosted as part of a department's usual lecture series, but the proposal can leverage multiple departmental lecture resources.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Any main campus tenure-track UNM faculty member with an appointment of at least 0.75 FTE, or main campus research faculty of at least 0.75 FTE with a minimum of two-year residency at UNM, may submit a proposal. Postdocs are encouraged to submit as a co-PI. Each PI may submit only one proposal (as PI) during the proposal cycle. Someone who submits a proposal as a PI may serve as a collaborator on other proposals.

3. FUNDING CYCLE AND AWARD PERIOD

The best consideration date for proposals is October 2, 2017. Awards will be made by November 1, 2017. All award funds must be expended within 12 months of the award date.

4. FUNDING PRIORITIES AND PROJECT CATEGORIES

For all proposals, the connection to the research area of focus must be explicit and **the extramural funding opportunity to be targeted must be specified**, including the sponsor/agency and program.

5. BUDGET

All proposals must include a one-page budget in an Excel spreadsheet that does not exceed the maximum allowed (see above). Funding is available for salaries and fringe benefits of postdoctoral fellows, students, technicians, and other non-faculty project personnel, technical supplies, equipment and miscellaneous expenses. The funds **cannot** be used for faculty salaries (summer or academic year), conference attendance, consultants, or office equipment, including computers. Workshop proposals may include meeting and travel costs for participants; workshops are

expected to be held at UNM. Priority will be given to proposals that leverage other resources and in-kind contributions, including equipment, datasets, and cyberinfrastructure.

6. FORMAT OF PROPOSAL

Proposals must be submitted in digital format in MS Word or as a PDF file, using a standard font in 11 point or larger, with one-inch margins. A maximum of 4 pages, excluding the budget, references, and appendices, is allowed but must include the information below. Reviewers will not review materials that exceed the page limits.

Proposal Cover Page (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal Title • Lead Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), department, and all contact information • Date of Submission and Total Amount Requested • Proposed Project Period (maximum 12 mo.) • Signature of PI's Department Chair or Center Director
Summary (0.5 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstract of the proposal and aims, including external funding target.
Project Description (2.5 pages, max.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of research focus area/problem • Technical significance of the research and potential impact on society and application areas • Specific goals, objectives and anticipated results • Description of activities/methods • Description of expected outcomes, including specific grant program(s) targeted • Collaborators/partners and their contributions
References (not included in 4 pages) Budget with Justification (not included in 4 pages) Appendices (not included in 4 pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not include URL's; include only those directly referenced in Project Description • Budget Spreadsheet (see details above) and 1 page Budget Justification • Curriculum vitae of PI's and Co-PIs (maximum 2 pages each) • Current and Pending Support for PIs and Co-PIs

7. PAYMENT

Upon selection, the OVPR will transfer funds (according to the approved proposal budget) to a newly created index in the PI's department/center. The PI will have responsibility for following UNM policies and procedures to administer all funds and must be certain over-expenditures do

not occur. Capital equipment purchased is the property of the University of New Mexico. All unexpended funds will revert to the OVPR at the end of the award period.

7. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The PI is required to submit a summary report of award outcomes within 30 days after the end of the award period and a new proposal for extramural funding. The report will describe the project outcomes in language readily understood by the public, focusing on the benefits and potential impacts of this initial work.

The PI must provide the Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO) information about proposal submissions, publications and other presentations resulting from this funding. All printed materials, including websites, should include the following acknowledgement: "This work was conducted as part of a Research Investment Award supported by the University of New Mexico, Office of the Vice President for Research."

8. PROPOSAL REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by the OVPR, using the review criteria below. Final funding decisions will be made by the VP for Research.

Review Criteria

- Significance and merit of the proposed research within the focus areas
- Appropriate methodology and plan for implementation
- Evidence of significant collaboration between faculty
- PI and collaborators have the necessary experience to complete the project
- Leveraging of other funds or in-kind support
- Upon completion, the likelihood of securing extramural funding through the agency/program identified
- Inclusion and fostering of new investigators.

Applicants will be informed of the funding decisions within one month of submission.

9. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted as a single complete document with any graphics embedded in the document. Submit the proposal document by email to the OVPR: vpr@unm.edu. The subject line in the submission email should be "OVPR Research Investment Award Proposal_[PI Last Name]".

Proposals will be reviewed within 30 days of the best consideration date, and thereafter on a first come, first served basis, pending the availability of funds.

Proposers are encouraged to contact the OVPR for additional information:

Dr. Mary Jo Daniel
mjdaniel@unm.edu or (505)277-0168