



## Academic Alliance Program

Sandia National Laboratories is one of the nation's foremost research and development (R&D) laboratories, with a broad national security mission that encompasses cutting-edge fields including data science, cyber security, biosecurity, quantum information technology, advanced manufacturing, and hypersonics. Partnerships with leading science and engineering universities are critical to the R&D that underlie Sandia's mission: the Labs draw on universities' research expertise, skilled talent, and technology commercialization experience.

The Sandia Academic Alliance program establishes enduring partnerships with a focused set of universities to sustain and enrich the labs' capabilities and increase mission impact. In turn, Academic Alliance partner universities gain increased access to Sandia's unique scientific facilities, science and engineering expertise, and research opportunities. It's a program with enormous potential benefits for Sandia and the partner universities; for researchers at Sandia and partner universities, for students interested in careers in national security, and for the nation.

### About the Academic Alliance Partners

The Academic Alliance program takes a deliberate approach to building partnerships with universities that combine strengths in key academic disciplines, sizable portfolios of relevant research capabilities, and a strong institutional commitment to national security. The program currently has five partner universities: the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), the

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), the University of New Mexico (UNM), Purdue University, and the University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin).

### Academic Partnerships Mission

The Academic Alliance program's mission is to "enhance our mutual leadership and advocacy in science and engineering to address significant national challenges." The program has three primary objectives:

- 1. Solve Big Problems** that Sandia and the partner universities can't address alone.
- 2. Develop STEM Talent** and maintain talent pipelines from the partner universities to Sandia.
- 3. Accelerate Technology Deployment** through the technology commercialization and adoption to benefit Sandia, our partner universities, commercial partners, and ultimately the end users.

### Keys to Success

Partnerships with the Academic Alliance universities rest on solid foundations which have yielded the following results:

- Established partnering agreements that include a shared vision identifying the purpose and goals of the Alliance and providing a framework for all involved parties to follow.
- Identified leaders to champion the program, including dedicated on-campus Sandia managers who can cross boundaries between Sandia and academia to foster strong ties between the Labs and the universities.

- Facilitated communications by creating shared platforms such as on-campus R&D groups for exchanging ideas and information, leading to an increase in traditional recruiting activities and new programs to develop and make use of the talent pool.
- Developed clear agreements on the use of IP that leverage each university's unique technology transfer capabilities and specific engagement strategies for each university to ensure agreement on the use of intellectual property.
- Invested in a long-term relationship based on a foundation of mutual trust to ensure long-term benefits, including committing funds from Sandia's discretionary Laboratory Directed Research and Development Program (LDRD) to stimulate research partnerships:

In FY19, Sandia committed \$6.0M to support partnerships at all five schools, individual LDRD projects generally are \$50K - \$100K/year.

The program tracks the success of each partnership with key quarterly metrics on the program's objectives.

### Solve Big Problems

- Joint proposals, projects, and publications
- Contract research
- Mission impact
- Facility use

### Develop STEM Talent

- Faculty visits and sabbaticals to Sandia and Sandia visits to universities
- Student, postdoc, and staff hires at Sandia
- In-state tuition benefits for Sandia staff
- Special degree programs

### Accelerate Technology Deployment

- Intellectual property bundling and joint intellectual property
- Company formations
- Job creation

## Academic Alliance Contacts

Whether you're a Sandia researcher looking for outside expertise, a university researcher interested in how your work can contribute to national security, a potential commercialization partner, or a student interested in Sandia careers, the AA program has a targeted Sandia contact who works closely with university leadership and faculty to build faculty relationships, establish research collaborations, and grow our talent pipeline.

**On-Campus Managers:** Georgia Tech: Rebecca Horton | rdhorto@sandia.gov | 505-844-3138  
 UT-Austin: Dave Minster | dgminst@sandia.gov | 505 284-3082  
 UIUC: Tom Corbet | tfcorbe@sandia.gov | 505-235-8058  
 NM: Diane Peebles | depeeb@sandia.gov | 505-845-8087  
 Purdue: Ken Patel | kdpatel@sandia.gov | 925-337-0861



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*Advancing science & engineering for the nation*