



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI Program) NSF 18-524

Date: December 21, 2017

UNM Researchers,

To enhance the quality of undergraduate STEM education at Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), the National Science Foundation (NSF) established the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI Program), in response to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31) and the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (P.L. 114-329). The HSI Program seeks to increase the retention and graduation rates of students pursuing associate or baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

The HSI Program supports standard and continuing grants that will:

- Develop, implement, and test models for the retention of students advancing from lower-division courses to upper-division STEM coursework, including those transferring from a two-year to a four-year institution.
- Create evidence-based and evidence-generating approaches that increase the graduation rates of students pursuing STEM associate or baccalaureate degrees at HSIs.
- Enhance research that improves understanding of how to build faculty capacity and student opportunities to conduct STEM research or STEM educational research at HSIs through partnerships with other HSIs and organizations (e.g., federal laboratories, research centers, industrial or business organizations, non-profit entities, etc.).
- Increase knowledge about evidence-based approaches to engaged student learning and how to broaden the participation of undergraduate students majoring in STEM disciplines at HSIs.

UNM is eligible to submit to the Track 1\* proposal type: Building Capacity. The track 1 funds projects from \$500K to \$1.5M for up to 5 years and is open to all eligible institutions and has three priority areas: Critical Transitions; Innovative Cross-Sector Partnerships; and Research on Broadening Participation in STEM. Complete program details can be found at: <https://nsf.gov/ehr/HSIProgramPlan.jsp>. Proposals are due to the NSF on March 6, 2018.

**This is a limited competition for the Track 1 proposal type “Building Capacity” and is limited to one proposal per institution.**

**Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal addressing the components below, plus references, budget overview and PI and Co-PI biosketches in NSF format. All documents must be submitted as a SINGLE PDF file, following NSF format requirements by noon, January 25, to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) with the subject line: NSF IUSE HSI – your name. No late submissions will be considered.**

#### **Pre-Proposal Required Components**

- PI and Co-PI’s names, departments/organizations and contact information
- Identification of the priority area(s) addressed (see solicitation)

- An explanation of the project's motivating rationale, goals, deliverables and activities, tied to relevant evidence and/or theory in current literature
- A description of how the project will generate knowledge to better understand issues in the recruitment, retention, degree attainment, and entry into the STEM workforce of undergraduate students
- Roles and responsibilities of PI, co-PI, other senior personnel and partners that aligns with the identified priority area
- An overview of the evaluation plan
- Expected impact of the project on UNM's research and education mission beyond the period of the award

All proposers are **strongly** encouraged to attend a meeting hosted by the Faculty Research Development Office to discuss HSI project ideas and opportunities for collaboration on **Thursday, January 11**. The time and location of the meeting will be sent out via the PI Listserv and posted on our website ([frdo.unm.edu](http://frdo.unm.edu)) in early January.

If you have questions, please contact [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

\*UNM is also eligible to submit a Resource Hub proposal. A Resource Hub proposal will be led by the OVPR; faculty interested in participating in that effort should email [frdo@unm.edu](mailto:frdo@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford ([CFord@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CFord@salud.unm.edu)) or Cassandra Misenar ([CMisenar@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CMisenar@salud.unm.edu)) for more information.*