

## UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest and pre-proposals for the DOE-supported TechWerx **Partnerships for Academic-Industry Career Training (PACT)** limited competition. The goal of the PACT initiative is to increase the number of highly skilled individuals entering the American energy workforce. Awards will establish regional consortia which must include at least one two-year IHE (e.g., vocational schools, trade schools, technical colleges, community colleges, Tribal colleges), at least two industry employers, and at least one workforce development entity.

Programs shall train for occupations that address a regional need for workforce in *at least* one of the following technology areas:

- Integration, safe use, and maintenance of oil, natural gas, coal, or geothermal energy technologies
- Using CO<sub>2</sub> to improve hydrocarbon recovery
- Produced water treatment and disposal
- Power generation for data centers or remote operations
- Technologies that enable any of the above technology areas, including but not limited to:
  - Construction related to the building-out of facilities or infrastructure
  - Applying and using artificial intelligence and machine learning
  - Geographic information systems

**Sponsor:** DOE in partnership with TechWerx

**Opportunity Title:** Partnerships for Academic-Industry Career Training (PACT)

**Sponsor Due Date(s):** 7/17/2026

**Award Range:** \$300,000 for Topic A and \$2,000,000 for Topic B

**Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM:** One (1) as lead institution

**Solicitation:** <https://www.techwerx.org/opportunities/HGEO-IE-PACT>

**Limited Comp. Instructions:** We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.

**Limited Comp. STEP 1: Required SOI Due Date:** **NOON on May 28, 2026** (for planning purposes)

**Limited Comp. STEP 2: Pre-proposal Due Date:** **NOON on June 1, 2026**

**STEP ONE:** Please submit your ~100-word **statement of interest** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered. Note that SOIs will NOT be scored; we require them to assist us in forming a review committee.

**STEP TWO:** Please submit your 2-page pre-proposal, abbreviated budget, and CVs for key personnel via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you may work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposal should address the major topics that will be included in the proposal narrative, including:

1. **Topic selection** (UNM is permitted to submit only 1 application as lead institution regardless of Topic Area): Identify either **Topic A - Enhance** (applicants seeking resources to enhance their existing training program(s) or reorient them to focus on energy careers), or **Topic B –**

**Establish** (applicants seeking resources to establish a new training program to focus on energy careers).

2. **List of anticipated collaborators:** The consortium must include:
  - At least one two-year IHE (e.g., community college, technical college, Tribal college)
  - At least two industry partners/employers
  - At least one workforce development entityInclude any additional partners and briefly describe how each partner will contribute to program design, delivery, or job placement.
3. **Program description:** Provide a concise description of the proposed training program, including:
  - The workforce need or gap being addressed
  - Key training elements (e.g., curriculum, credentials, certifications, hands-on components)
  - How the program aligns with industry skill requirements and leads to employment outcomes
4. **Implementation plan and expected outcomes:** Briefly describe the phased implementation approach (planning and execution), key activities, timeline, and the anticipated outcomes, including training outputs, credentials, and workforce impacts.

Applicant selections will be published on the [UNM Limited Competitions website](#). Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu) for more information.*