



To: Distribution List

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

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF Pathways into the Earth, Ocean, Polar and Atmospheric & Geospace Sciences (GEOPaths) NSF 23-540

Date: December 4, 2023

The GEOPaths funding opportunity seeks proposals that specifically address the current needs and opportunities related to education, learning, training, and professional development within the geosciences community through the formation of STEM Learning Ecosystems that engage students in the study of the Earth, its oceans, polar regions, and atmosphere. The primary goal is to increase the number of students pursuing undergraduate and/or postgraduate degrees through the design and testing of novel approaches that engage students in authentic, career-relevant experiences in geoscience. Engaging students from historically excluded groups or from non-geoscience degree programs is a priority.

UNM is only eligible for two of the three funding tracks that focus on Geoscience Learning Ecosystems:

- **GEOPaths: Informal Networks (IN).** Collaborative projects in this track will support geoscience learning and experiences in informal settings for teachers, pre-college (e.g., upper-level high school) students, and early undergraduates in the geosciences.
- **GEOPaths: Graduate Opportunities (GO).** Projects in this track will improve research and career-related pathways into the geosciences for undergraduate and graduate students through institutional collaborations with a focus on service learning and workplace skill building.

NSF expects to make 15 awards with the average total award size expected to be \$350,000-\$400,000. The duration of awards for each track will be up to 36 months. The deadline for full proposals to the NSF is February 23, 2024. Full details can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23540/nsf23540.htm>

**This is a limited competition.** UNM may serve as the sole submitting organization or as the lead organization of a collaborative project on **only one (1) submission per competition, regardless of track**, but may serve as the non-lead organization of a collaborative project more than once per competition.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, **please submit a 200-word Statement of Interest indicating to which track (IN or GO) you wish to apply** no later than **NOON on December 18, 2023** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered. *Based on the number of responses received, the Limited Competitions Management Team may announce a call for pre-proposals.*

If you have any questions, please contact us [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.*