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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: February 8, 2023

The Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) supports this GEOPAths funding opportunity, which invites 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 post-graduate degrees through the design and testing of novel approaches that engage students in authentic, career-relevant experiences in geoscience. In order to broaden participation in the geosciences, 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, 5 in each of the three tracks, 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. More details can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23540/nsf23540.htm The **proposal target date** for full proposals to the NSF is March 27, 2023.

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.

This is a two-phase limited competition.

1) If you are interested in submitting a GEOPAths 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 February 17, 2023** via UNM's **InfoReady Review portal**. *Note: The Statement of Interest is required in order for the preliminary proposal to be reviewed by the limited competitions committee.*

2) Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal addressing the review criteria below (plus budget overview, and abbreviated PI and Co-PI(s) CV(s); 11-point font, 1-inch margins) no later than NOON

on February 24, 2023. No late submissions will be considered. Pre-proposals should include a project title, names, organization, and contact information of all PIs, as well as the identification of external collaborators.

Pre-proposals should address the major points that will be included in the proposal and should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated PI CV:**

A.) Overview. Provide a brief description of the goals and objectives of the proposed GEOPAths project. Information should be provided about the specific student population being targeted (e.g., demographics, grade level, critical juncture), as well as a justification as to why this particular population was chosen.

B.) Institutional Profile(s). Provide a brief description of the submitting organization and any other institutional partners in the project. Proposals should describe the current status of undergraduate or related geoscience education, research, and/or training opportunities at each institution.

C.) Project Design. Proposals should describe the specific activities that will be undertaken to achieve the goals outlined in this solicitation. Details on the learning ecosystem model that will be applied during the project should be discussed here.

D.) Project Personnel. Discuss the diversity of the mentor pool; strategies for recruiting and selecting additional mentors; any training, mentoring, or monitoring that mentors have received or will receive to help them mentor students effectively during the extra- or co-curricular experience; and any plans by which mentoring relationships will be sustained after students leave the GEOPAths-supported activity.

E.) Participant Plan. Describe the types and/or names of academic institutions or other partners where participants will be recruited and the efforts that will be made to attract members of historically excluded groups. The names of any ongoing programs to engage participants from these groups in STEM disciplines (e.g., LSAMP, SOARS) that may be leveraged for recruitment should be identified.

If you have any questions, please contact us limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.