



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF, Scholarships in STEM Network (S-STEM-Net), (NSF 23-536)

Date: 2/15/2023

Dear UNM Researchers,

Through this opportunity, the NSF seeks to foster a community for S-STEM stakeholders and further develop the infrastructure needed to generate and disseminate new knowledge, successful practices and effective design principles arising from NSF S-STEM projects nationwide. To support collaboration within the S-STEM network, NSF will fund several S-STEM Research Hubs (S-STEM-Hub).

The S-STEM Network (S-STEM-Net) will collaborate to create synergies and sustain a robust national ecosystem consisting of multi-sector partners supporting domestic low-income STEM students in achieving their career goals, while also ensuring access, inclusion, and adaptability to changing learning needs. The Hubs will investigate evolving barriers to the success of this student population. It will also disseminate the context and circumstances by which interventions and practices that support graduation of domestic low-income students pursuing careers in STEM are successful.

The NSF expects to fund 5 awards totaling \$15 million with award periods up to 5 years.

S-STEM Research Hubs are primarily formed to organize groups of researchers to conduct and disseminate rigorous qualitative and quantitative research on topics related to the S-STEM program and low-income student success. Each Research Hub should have a central focus that intersects a clear group of current and prospective S-STEM institutions. For example, a Research Hub might be organized around research on specific interventions (e.g., impact of math Summer bridge programs) or desirable outcomes (e.g., development of STEM identity) for S-STEM scholars. Other thematic topics that Research Hubs might focus on include research on issues affecting a specific discipline or academic context (e.g., low-income undergraduates in computer science; access to doctoral e programs for domestic low-income students in strategic disciplines such as quantum science, robotics, or AI; first-generation S-STEM scholars at two-year colleges; low-income veterans pursuing STEM careers). Any other common interests that exist among active S-STEM projects might also be appropriate for development of a Research Hub, including geographic regions with common cultural and other socio-economic factors affecting scholars (e.g., S-STEM Research Hub of the Midwest) or type of institution (e.g., S-STEM Hub for Rural-serving Institutions) or about a pervasive issue experienced by low-income scholars across certain types of institutions (e.g., S-STEM Research Hub about Strategies to Overcome Impostor Syndrome at Highly Competitive Institutions).

*Requirements for S-STEM Hubs:*

**1) Lead Organization:** The lead organization must demonstrate significant experience with the S-STEM program or with research about or services to support domestic low-income students in STEM.

**2) Evaluation:** Proposals must include formative and summative assessments of the quality and success of the S-STEM-Hub activities as appropriate. This evaluation must be conducted by an independent experienced evaluator who is external to the project and to the institution.

**3) Letters of Collaboration:** All institutional collaborations must be ratified by a corresponding letter of collaboration signed by an administrator (dean or above) following the PAPPG requirements for these letters, confirming that the institution is aware of the proposed work and willing to support the project in full if awarded.

**4) Participation in S-STEM PI meeting:** PI and Co-PIs should plan to participate in the S-STEM PI meeting that occurs every other year. Budgets should include travel for the leadership team for the 3-day event in Years 1, 3, and 5.

**Activities required of all S-STEM-Hub projects:**

- identify, develop, and support promising innovative research that generates valuable new knowledge on the US higher education enterprise in general and the S-STEM community in particular;
- gather, analyze, and utilize the data and insights resulting from the experiences of those participating in S-STEM projects to share information about what works and what does not under given circumstances, regarding low-income STEM student achievement;
- share and leverage effective practices on a national scale to improve the achievement and success of domestic low-income students pursuing careers in STEM (incl. veterans, graduate students, and rural students, if appropriate);
- provide intellectual infrastructure for collaborations with potential to expand the knowledge base about support for domestic low-income, high-achieving STEM students;
- develop mechanisms for dissemination of successful practices, the context in which they work and research results; and,
- ensure that the Research Hub's activities are inclusive of the broad collection of institutions with S-STEM projects in the research focus of interest including, but not limited to, 2-year colleges, PUIs, minority-serving institutions, and/or research-intensive universities, as appropriate.

**This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to 1 proposal.** If you are interested, please submit a 200-word Statement of Interest along with a tentative project title by **NOON on Wednesday, February 22, 2023** via UNM's InfoReady Review portal <https://unm.infoready4.com/>. No late submissions will be considered. The deadline for full proposals to the agency is **March 29, 2023**. Full details can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23536/nsf23536.htm>.

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 Corey Ford ([CFord@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CFord@salud.unm.edu)) or Cassandra Misenaar ([CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CMisenaar@salud.unm.edu)) for more information.*