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Subject: NASA: MUREP Institutional Research Opportunity - MIRO

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The mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Office of Education is to advance high quality Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education across the United States. To maximize these efforts, NASA has consolidated its education activities into the Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP). MUREP supports training and development of students and faculty in STEM at targeted colleges and universities, and provides opportunities for research and education that attract and prepare increasing numbers of students for STEM careers. As an integral part of this mission, the MUREP Institutional Research Opportunity (MIRO), previously University Research Centers (URC) is being established to strengthen and develop the research capacity and infrastructure of Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) in areas of strategic importance and value to NASA's mission and national priorities. Overall, MIRO awards aim to promote STEM literacy and to enhance and sustain the capability of institutions to perform NASA-related research and education, which directly supports NASA's four Mission Directorates – Aeronautics Research, Human Exploration and Space Operations, Science, and Space Technology.

The specific goals of MIRO awards are to: 1) Expand the nation's base for aerospace research and development by fostering new aerospace research and technology development concepts; 2) Develop mechanisms for increased participation by faculty and students at MSIs in the research programs of NASA's Mission Directorates; and 3) Increase the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees awarded to students from MSIs in NASA-related fields. The specific objectives for MIRO recipients are to: 1) Establish significant, multi-disciplinary, scientific, engineering, and/or commercial research centers at the host university, that contribute substantially to the programs of one or more of the NASA Mission Directorates as described in the 2014 NASA Strategic Plan; 2) Improve the rates at which students, who historically have been underrepresented in NASA-related fields, are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees at their respective universities in NASA-related fields; and 3) Move increasingly towards gaining support from sources outside of MIRO, by aggressively pursuing additional funding opportunities offered by the NASA Mission Directorates, industry, and other agencies.

Although a broad range of partnerships, teams, and collaborations are encouraged, at a minimum the proposal must include each of the following: 1) at least one four-year institution of higher education (in addition to the proposing Institution); and 2) at least one NASA Center. Recipients of awards under this FY 2014 solicitation will be designated as NASA MIRO Group 6. Successful proposals for Group 6 will be funded as multi-year cooperative agreements. Funding for each MIRO may not exceed \$1,000,000/per year for five (5) years. NASA plans to fund ~4-9 awards. More details can be found at <http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary.do?method=init&solId=%7bB6C61D04-5793-EF52-3497-1AA57FA424A5%7d&path=open>. The deadline for full proposals to the NASA is November 12, 2014.

This is a limited competition; eligible institutions shall submit only ONE (1) lead proposal per any type of DUNS number. (Eligible institutions may submit a proposal as the lead institution in accordance with the above restriction, and/or be included as an unfunded partner or sub-awardee in any number of proposals for which it is in a non-lead role.) Please submit your 3-page preproposal (plus budget and CV; all documents in a SINGLE PDF file, 11 point font) by NOON on Tuesday, September 30, 2014 to limited@unm.edu with the subject line indicating: NASA-MIRO - your name. No late submissions will be considered. The pre-proposal should address the major points that will be included in the proposal narrative (including a description of: the research activities, the strategic focus of the research activities and the approach to meeting the objectives for student development at both undergraduate and graduate levels; describe the gap in the scientific literature that the activity will address; demonstrate the capability of the institution, staff, faculty, collaborators, and targeted students to achieve successful outcomes for the proposed activity; and a description of the evaluation plan.) The 3-page narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview and an **abbreviated PI CV**. The scoring will be weighted as follows: proposal narrative (70%), draft budget overview (15%), and abbreviated PI CV (15%).**

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Susan De Los Santos (sdelossa@unm.edu or 277-0272) or Monica Fishel (mlfishel@unm.edu or 277-8114).