



Lobos,

As we head into fall break, we have some informational updates across a range of topics that we've been collecting over the past few weeks.

In the News:

Several news articles recently published provide insight into federal funding agencies grantmaking, potential rescissions to various federal funding programs, and issues associated with the duration of status rule for international visa holders. Here's a selection of articles that may interest UNM researchers.

- There are several articles out there on how funding agencies issued a record low number of awards during FY26:
 - [Exclusive: NSF set to issue lowest number of new grants in four decades | Nature](#)
 - [Funding agencies fail to obligate funds | Inside Higher Ed](#)
 - [NSF withholds \\$1.4B in research funding | New York Times](#)
 - National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding falls to 6 year low | [The Scientist](#)
- A [lawsuit filed challenging the duration of stay \(visas\)](#) and [more recent news on the progress of the case](#). Note that more information can be found through UNM's Global Education Office (GEO); please direct questions to GEO (geo@unm.edu).
- Researchers have also filed suit over [NIH's grant reviewing system](#).
- **Department of Justice (DOJ) Issues Opinion on Constitutionality of NSF STEM Programs:** DOJ's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) issued an [opinion](#) concluding that three NSF STEM education programs are unconstitutional because, as the opinion asserts, their race-based eligibility criteria fail equal-protection scrutiny and cannot be severed from the underlying programs. OLC concluded NSF may no longer administer these programs but may redirect appropriated funds to other STEM education activities deemed lawful. OLC also determined that other programs contain unconstitutional elements that can be severed, allowing the programs to continue if removed. Other programs were deemed constitutional.
- The Department of Energy (DOE) released its [plan](#) to implement the White House's executive order restoring "gold standard science" and NSF has released its [New Golden Age of Science](#) implementation plan.
- The White House released the [National Security Science & Technology Strategy](#) in late August.

Program Updates/Resources:

- The Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) worked with the NIH to develop a range of scenarios that can help researchers navigate new rules regarding authorship and foreign collaborations. These scenarios along with extensive explanations can be found [here](#).
- Changes to NIH Career Development (K) Award Programs: Per [NOT-OD-26-098](#), NIH announced updates to its Career Development (K) Awards programs. Changes included consolidating notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs), removing the requirement for data management and sharing (DMS) plans on Ks, and clarifying allowable uses of K award funds for clinical trial research.

We hope you have a relaxing fall break and are able to take in some of the lovely New Mexico fall colors (both trees and balloons!).

Ellen R. Fisher
UNM Vice President for Research
Professor of Chemistry

Hengameh Raissy
HSC Vice President for Research
Professor of Pediatrics

