



Lobos,

As you head into the potentially more relaxed summer season, we have some reminders and updates from our federal funding agencies.

Spring-Summer Reminders

- **Subawards:** UNM's current negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (IDC Rate Agreement) incorporates the revised federal definition of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC), allowing the university to include up to the first \$50,000 of each subaward in the F&A base for most federal awards. NIH *has not* implemented this change, limiting the MTDC base to the first \$25,000 of each subaward. Effective immediately:
 - Apply the \$50,000 MTDC threshold for subawards on non-NIH federal awards.
 - Continue using the \$25,000 threshold for all NIH proposals and awards until NIH issues updated guidance.

Please contact a fiscal monitor in your Contract and Grant Accounting office for more information.

- **Impact Statements:** EVP for HSC Mike Richards and Interim Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs Barbara Rodriguez have issued [guidance on impact statements](#) for annual reviews and milestone dossiers. These impact statements provide faculty with the opportunity to document, summarize, and reflect on how federal actions have affected their workload, professional opportunities, productivity, performance, and career trajectory.

Federal Agency Updates

- **Department of Education (ED).** As you know, UNM is required under Section 117 of the Higher Education Act to report twice a year any gifts or contracts with a foreign source if the aggregate exceeds \$250,000 in a calendar year. Last year, a new executive order increased the reporting requirements. In January, ED posted a public transparency dashboard, and in February signed an interagency agreement with the Department of State for enforcement and audits. Although this impacts us as an institution, it also impacts individual researchers who may be receiving benefits from a foreign entity. As a reminder, if you receive a request for collaboration, presentation, or publication from an unknown or foreign individual or entity, please report it to UNM Facility Security Officer Mikell Coleman (mcoleman2@unm.edu). For more information on what you should do, visit UNM's
 - [HSC compliance website](#)
 - [Central/Branch Campus website on Foreign Influence](#)
 - [Global Education Office](#) (for students, postdocs, and faculty)
 - [Industrial Security Office](#)



- National Science Foundation (NSF): Although there still appears to be some delays in the awarding of *new* NSF grants relative to previous years, we have learned that *continuing* awards from NSF should be up to date. We ask for your continued feedback as situations arise. NSF is also in the process of updating their Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG), which has delayed the release of new solicitations from the agency.
- National Institutes of Health (NIH):
 - NIH is developing a [new strategic plan](#) for 2027-2031 and is seeking input from the public. Responses are due by May 26.
 - NIH recently released a summary of [their initiatives](#) to protect NIH funded research from undue foreign interference.
 - As a reminder, NIH has now [fully implemented](#) the Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support. Noncompliance will cause a system error and block the submission.
- National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): On May 7, a federal judge ruled that the mass termination of 1,400 grants from NEH last year was unconstitutional. **This includes five awards to UNM.** NEH has communicated the court decision to the institutions, and we await further information from NEH.

DC Alumni Reception and Hill Visits

Last month, your VPRs traveled to Washington D.C., along with six UNM researchers to attend the annual UNM Alumni Congressional Reception. At the reception, our researchers presented a “lightning lounge” version (~4 min talks) about their research to more than 80 UNM alums and congressional staffers. Both Senator Lujan and Representative Stansbury also made appearances and gave engaging and insightful remarks about UNM research, expressing strong support for the impact federally funded UNM research is having on our shared constituents.

While in DC, we also met with all our congressional offices to discuss research initiatives such as the Quantum New Mexico Institute (QNM-I), AI, and microplastics, as well as general observations regarding UNM’s research enterprise and the federal funding landscape. Across-the-board, our congressional delegation was supportive and appreciative of hearing what we had to say with respect to the challenges our researchers across the institution have been experiencing. This type of organized information-sharing is foundational to us staying aligned as an institution, internally and externally. It was truly a successful trip on all fronts. We’ll continue to provide you with periodic messages with useful updates and reminders, albeit at a more relaxed pace the next couple of months. We hope you all have a safe and productive summer.

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