



RELEASE: Monday, March 10

Lobo researchers,

We start this week's communication with a reminder about our upcoming UNM State of Research event on **Wednesday, March 12 from 4-6 pm**. Our Q&A panel of Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs James Holloway, Vice President for Research Ellen Fisher, Executive Vice President for Health Sciences Mike Richards, and Health Sciences Center Vice President for Research Hengameh Raissy are prepping for a lively Q&A session with all of you. Please submit a question in advance through [the provided form](#). There is also still [time to register](#).

In federal agency news:

- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** On March 6, NIH announced plans to centralize peer review of all applications for grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts within their Center for Scientific Review (CSR). The changes are part of cost-saving measures, as the proposed consolidations would eliminate study sections based within NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs). Read more here: [NIH centralizes peer review to improve efficiency and strengthen integrity](#)
- **Department of Education:** Some of you may have heard that the White House is considering steps that would ultimately dissolve the Department of Education. This also arises from the recently confirmed Secretary of Education Linda McMahon's [memo](#) to staff outlining her charge to reorganize the agency. Our Government Relations group is monitoring this situation and continues to advise UNM leadership of possible scenarios for paths forward.
- **Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE):** On February 26, [an executive order](#) (EO) was issued by the White House that may impact the processes by which UNM gets reimbursed for grants and contracts. This EO gives agencies 30 days to develop an agency-specific system for monitoring individual payments on contracts and grants; require written justification for individual payments; review current granting policies, procedures and personnel; and to terminate or modify grants and contracts to reduce spending and advance White House policies.

We also have a couple of reminders for PIs:

- **Agency Requests:** If you receive a request for information from a funding agency, it is very important that the appropriate sponsored projects office is notified. This includes surveys, changes to policy, changes in contract language, and/or changes in scope of a project, among others. Our OSP/SPO teams can help you navigate such requests (awards@unm.edu for main and branch campuses; hsc-preaward@salud.unm.edu for Health Sciences campus).
- **Temporary Student Support** - Last month, we announced the temporary student support program being offered by the offices of EVP Holloway and EVP Richards. These programs provide temporary support for undergraduate and



graduate students affected by a stop-work order (SWO). The program provides 50% of the funds necessary to cover students supported on a grant or contract from the moment the SWO is issued until May 31, 2025, or the end of their current contract, whichever comes first, for a graduate student, or until May 17, 2025, or the end of their expected work period, whichever comes first, for an undergraduate student.

We're happy to announce that EVP Holloway and EVP Richards have agreed to extend this program to students who are affected by a delayed Notice of Award (NOA). It is important to note that the extended support is for delayed NOAs for continuation of an award, and not for delayed NOAs for expected new awards.

Main campus researchers should apply for the program via the [Temporary Student Support Form](#).

Health Sciences researchers should submit their SWOs via email to HSC-Preaward@salud.unm.edu, and SPO staff will work with the PI to identify the needed support.

As we have discussed in previous joint communications, UNM leadership as well as our Government Relations team maintain strong, open communication with our state legislators as well as our entire congressional delegation. We have been keeping our lawmakers abreast of the impact that the changing federal funding landscape has on UNM operations, including the research enterprise. We also continue to hold briefings for the staffers within our congressional representatives' offices and directly provide them with information on issues that have arisen as a result of stop-work orders, impacts to student researchers, and contract terminations, among other issues.

We stay committed to providing updates on new developments related to changes in the federal research funding landscape. Please remember to use our [Smartsheet questionnaire](#) to submit questions and concerns; the relevant research office will respond to you directly as quickly as possible.

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