NMT FY2027

STATE LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

NEW MEXICO TECH

FY2027 CAPITAL PRIORITIES

Overview & Justification

New Mexico Tech's (NMT) FY2027 top five capital priorities represent a strategic investment in student success, workforce development, and long-term campus infrastructure. These priorities include the continued development of the Student & Community Wellness Center, modernization of academic and research facilities, expansion of high-quality childcare services, and targeted upgrades to public safety systems and equipment. Together, these projects enhance educational outcomes, support employee and student retention, strengthen community partnerships, and ensure a safe, efficient, and sustainable campus environment that serves both New Mexico Tech and the broader Socorro community.

Top Five Capital Priorities

Category	Estimated Amount	Description
1. Student & Community Wellness Center	**N/A** **(for FY28)**	Establishes a modern wellness center that enhances student success and strengthens community partnerships through shared access and programs.
2. MSEC Mechanical Upgrade	**$60M** **(HED): $40M**	Modernizes labs and classrooms with sustainable, energy-efficient systems to enhance research, safety, and hands-on learning for students.
3. NMBGMR Core Research Facility	**$8.99M** **(HED): $8M**	Constructs a modern, efficient research center to preserve geological assets and advance energy innovation and workforce development.
4. Childcare Center Expansion	**$2.1M** **(HED): $1.6M**	Expands a 5-Star STEM-focused facility to meet regional childcare shortages, supporting student success, workforce retention, and community growth.
5. Public Safety & Equipment	**$3.33M** **(HED): $3.33M**	Upgrades campus security systems, lighting, and police technology to create a safer, more efficient, and well-monitored environment for students and staff.

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FY2027 CAPITAL PRIORITIES

#1 STUDENT & COMMUNITY WELLNESS CENTER

Overview & Justification

- Comprehensive transformation of existing facilities into state-of-the-art Student and Community Wellness Center.
- Design and construction will prioritize whole-body health and wellness, ensuring the facility is fully accessible to both the New Mexico Tech campus and the Socorro community.
- Supported by the City of Socorro, Socorro County and Socorro Consolidated Schools.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: TBD**
- Design currently underway with funding request made for FY28

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

A wellness center isn't just a physical space—it's a hub for building healthier students who are better equipped to succeed academically and personally. This facility will contribute to positive changes in student engagement, satisfaction, and overall well-being, thus leading to enrollment growth and degree production by enhancing the student experience, improving retention, and fostering student success.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

This project will be a collaboration between New Mexico Tech and the City and County of Socorro. By engaging all local partners and offering a facility that is accessible to students, faculty and staff and community members, we will attract students and workers to the area, improve community partnerships, improve quality of life and help strengthen the local economy.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

This new facility will reduce the campus deferred maintenance by replacing outdated infrastructure, resolving existing ADA issues, improving building efficiency, and resetting the maintenance lifecycle. Some examples include old HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and roofing systems prone to failure are eliminated. Modern materials and systems (LED lighting, smart HVAC, durable finishes) require fewer repairs and operate more efficiently, leading to reduced downtime and fewer maintenance hours for service disruptions.

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FY2027 CAPITAL PRIORITIES | #2 MSEC MECHANICAL UPGRADE

Overview & Justification

This project to modernize the Mineral Science and Engineering Complex (MSEC) will:

- Replace the HVAC and electrical systems
- Upgrade mechanical systems and pneumatic controls
- Update IT systems and LED lighting upgrades
- Transform Kelly Hall into incubator space

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $60M**
- HED recommended **$40M** GO Bond Funding
- **Goal:** Secure $60M to complete MSEC and Kelly Hall renovations and support researchers during this transition

Impact & Benefits

1. Research & Educational Impact

This project will enhance student and faculty research by providing modern spaces to advance fundamental and applied research. It gives students, staff and faculty the tools and space to deliver high-impact instruction and conduct innovative research using modern equipment and instructional technology.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

This project will greatly upgrade and enhance the research and learning environment at New Mexico Tech. Having a modern lab building and incubator space plays a critical role in securing and advancing externally funded research that is a key factor in helping to drive technology innovation, commercialization and workforce readiness.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

This project will use high efficiency air handling units along with variable frequency drives and building automation controls that will tie into the existing campus building control software. Lighting will be upgraded to include occupancy sensors. Fixtures will be low flow and faucets will use aerators. This project will strive for LEED Silver or better certification and meet the 2024 energy code. The additional Kelly Hall remodel will provide pathways toward technology commercialization that do not currently exist at NMT.

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FY2027 CAPITAL PRIORITIES | #3 NMBGMR CORE RESEARCH FACILITY

Overview & Justification

The New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR), a research and service division of New Mexico Tech, is undertaking a critical project to construct an approximately 22,000-sq. ft new Core Research Center, upgrading aging infrastructure to fit-for-purpose facilities. This initiative responds to the pressing need for a centralized, modernized space to house, preserve, and facilitate research on geological core samples collected across New Mexico. The NMBGMR's Subsurface Library curates over 15 million pieces of unique and representative information (rock core and physical records) that are indispensable for geological research, educational purposes, and the state's fossil fuel-based development, mineral extraction (including critical mineral and rare earth mineral resources), and low carbon energy (geothermal, hydrogen, carbon sequestration) industries.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $8.99M**
- HED recommended **$8M** GO Bond Funding
- **Goal:** secure an additional $1M

Impact & Benefits

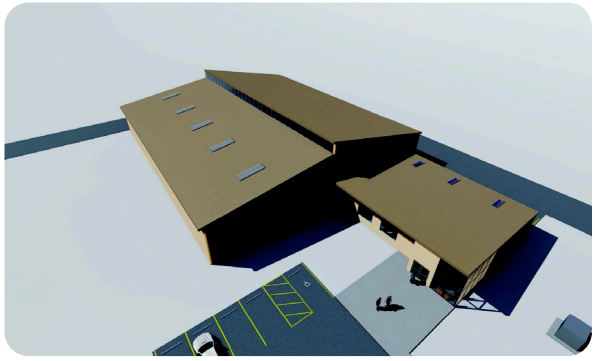
1. Educational Impact

The NMBGMR plays a pivotal role as a foundational resource for geological research and education in the state. By housing a comprehensive collection of core samples drawn from diverse locations across New Mexico, the NMBGMR facilitates a broad spectrum of geological inquiries and studies. The core samples stored at the NMBGMR provide critical data for geological research. By making these samples available, the NMBGMR supports research and educational initiatives at New Mexico Tech and beyond.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

The data curated and ongoing research conducted in this new facility will support future sustainable energy projects in New Mexico. Projects involving fossil fuels, CCUS, geothermal, and critical minerals will help communities forge economic resiliency consisting of sustainable new jobs and entrepreneurship development initiatives.

Additionally, the new facility will leverage and promote the broader use of existing and future cores as a research and business "accelerator" in New Mexico. Because the cost of drilling and core collection is so high (up to 10's of millions of dollars per well), a complete and easily accessible core library effectively lowers the startup cost of any new subsurface venture in New Mexico by potentially billions of dollars.



3. Long-Term Sustainability

This project will use high efficiency air handling units along with variable frequency drives and building automation controls that will tie into the existing campus building control software. Lighting will include occupancy sensors. This project will strive for LEED Silver or better certification and meet the 2024 energy code.

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FY2027 CAPITAL PRIORITIES | #4 CHILDCARE EXPANSION

Overview & Justification

This project will add an approximately 2,246-sq. ft. addition to the current Children's Center. Included will be two classrooms, restrooms, storage area, outdoor play area and perimeter fence for the addition.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $2.1M**
- HED recommended **$1.6M** in general fund appropriation

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational & Community Impact

- Alignment with state goals: Advances New Mexico's universal child care initiative by expanding access, raising quality standards, and promoting family and community stability.
- Support for students: Removes barriers to enrollment, persistence, and graduation for student-parents—particularly those in high-demand STEM fields. Reliable childcare enables students to balance academic and family responsibilities.
- Support for employees: Improves recruitment and retention of faculty and staff by providing consistent, high-quality child care.
- Strengthens the workforce pipeline: Through a 5-Star rated program and a STEM-focused Pre-K Head Start initiative, the center prepares children for future academic and workforce success.
- Supports population stability: By helping attract and retain young families, the project bolsters community stability and drives economic development.
- Addresses critical shortages: Socorro has long faced a lack of child care options, constraining workforce growth in multiple sectors—particularly at the local hospital, which struggles to recruit and retain qualified doctors due to insufficient child care. Enhances workplace productivity and employee satisfaction by reducing child care concerns.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

Expanding child care services at the New Mexico Tech Children's Center will directly support the university's mission, address regional workforce needs, and contribute to the broader City and County of Socorro community. By increasing access to high-quality, reliable infant and early childhood care, this project resolves a longstanding shortage that has limited workforce development, student success, and family stability.

PROPOSED FLOORPLAN

3. Long-Term Sustainability

This project will use high efficiency air handling units along with variable frequency drives and building automation controls that will tie into the existing campus building control software. Lighting will include occupancy sensors. This project will strive for LEED Silver or better certification and meet the 2024 energy code.

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FY2027 CAPITAL PRIORITIES | #5 PUBLIC SAFETY & EQUIPMENT UPGRADE

Overview & Justification

New Mexico Tech has very limited and outdated campus safety systems, with little to no effective camera coverage in residence halls, academic buildings, parking areas, and public spaces. This project will install several hundred modern camera units across key campus facilities and approximately 23 parking areas, supported by upgraded lighting and electrical infrastructure to improve visibility and system effectiveness. It will also modernize police technology and the campus dispatch center, replacing aging consoles, monitors, computers, and law enforcement camera equipment to support reliable monitoring and emergency response.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $3.33M**
- **HED recommended full funding**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

Improved visibility and monitoring across residence halls, academic buildings, and public areas will create a safer and more stable environment for students, faculty, and staff. By reducing security disruptions and enhancing rapid response capabilities, the project supports uninterrupted instruction, research, and residential life. These improvements contribute to student well-being, confidence, and long-term retention.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

This investment supports local contracting and technology services during installation and implementation, directly benefiting the regional workforce. Expanded monitoring and modernized dispatch capabilities reduce property loss, liability exposure, and operational interruptions. A safer, more secure campus strengthens NMT's ability to attract new students, employees, and research partners, supporting economic development for both the university and the community.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Replacing obsolete systems with modern, energy-efficient technology reduces maintenance demands, operating costs, and system downtime. Updated lighting, camera infrastructure, and dispatch equipment reset the maintenance lifecycle and provide a scalable foundation for future campus safety enhancements. Centralized monitoring improves long-term reliability and ensures the system can evolve with emerging safety needs.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

Category	Estimated Amount	Description
Camera Systems	**$2.2M**	Purchase, installation, wiring, power, and storage for several hundred fixed and automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) cameras campus-wide.
Safety Lighting & Electrical	**$500K**	Upgrades to lighting and supporting infrastructure to improve visibility and complement camera effectiveness.
Law Enforcement Cameras & Technology, Dispatch / Monitoring Center Modernization	**$625K**	Replacement of law enforcement cameras and supporting technology - dispatch consoles, computers, and monitoring systems for expanded video and communications operations.
Total:	**$3.33M**	

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FY2027 SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

Overview & Justification

New Mexico Tech's FY2027 Special Appropriation Requests focus on strengthening statewide research capacity, workforce development, and critical infrastructure. The top priorities include upgrades to enterprise IT systems, strategic campus and research facility planning, student success and leadership development initiatives, and investments in critical minerals and advanced wireless technologies. Together, these requests support New Mexico's economic growth, public safety, and innovation ecosystem by modernizing infrastructure, advancing research, and preparing a skilled workforce aligned with state and national priorities.

Complete List of NMT's Special Appropriation Requests

Category	Estimated Amount	Description
1. ERP Upgrade & Auxiliary Software Implementation: Phase 2	**$3.6M**	Upgrade of NMT's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system that replaces outdated infrastructure, streamlines core business functions and strengthens data security.
2. Campus & Research Facility Master Plan	**$1.5M**	Update of campus master plan for all University-owned facilities. Replaces campus master plan developed in 2000.
3. Student Success & Leadership Program	**$1.35M**	Implementation of onboarding program for students that includes redesigning degree pathways and enhancing instruction.
4. Critical Minerals Research Center	**$3M**	Establish a center for critical minerals at New Mexico Tech that enhances collaboration within and beyond the institution. This request is over a 3-year period.
5. Playas Wireless Technology Innovation Hub	**$7M**	Funding will assist with building out and equipping a wireless technology innovation hub at Playas.
6. Triple Quadrupole Mass Spectrometer for PFAS & PFOA Measurement	**$1.15M**	Acquire instrumentation to be used for the identification of "forever chemicals."
7. Winter Pool Shelter	**$800K**	Design, construct and install a semi-permanent structure/ enclosure for the university's outdoor pool. There is no enclosed, year-round pool in the city of Socorro.
8. Hydrogeology (aquifer monitoring, characterization & integration of data)	**$22M**	Support aquifer characterization & monitoring activities as part of the Governor's 50-year Water Action Plan
9. Autonomous Drone Center	**$2.52M**	Establish and equip the NM Autonomous Drones Center. This will align with our efforts to establish an interdisciplinary degree program, expand research opportunities and industry partnerships, and facilitate K-12 activities and programs.
10. Brand Refresh & Marketing: Phase 2	**$2M**	Expand marketing of New Mexico Tech related to the recruitment of students. This includes continued evolution of website and updated branding.
11. Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC) Vehicle Replacements	**$1M**	Replacement vehicles for field operations on the EMRTC test range.
12. Advanced Manufacturing, Materials & Metrology Center	**$352K**	Initial phase to create an advanced manufacturing center that supports student-faculty research and collaborations with industry partners related to employee training and R&D.

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SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

#1 ERP UPGRADE & IMPLEMENTATION

Overview & Justification

This $3.6M modernization project will upgrade New Mexico Tech's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, replacing outdated infrastructure that limits institutional efficiency and increases operational risk. The project will transition NMT to a modern, integrated platform that streamlines core business functions, reduces reliance on manual processes, eliminates data silos, and strengthens cybersecurity across the institution.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $3.6M**

Failure to fund this $3.6M project would lead to the continued stagnation of NMT's business processes. Without this investment, the institution faces rising maintenance costs for legacy hardware and an increased likelihood of operational disruptions, ultimately compromising its competitive standing and long-term financial resilience.

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

A modern ERP system improves the student experience by enabling more efficient enrollment, financial aid, payroll, and academic support services, ensuring students and faculty are supported by reliable, responsive administrative systems.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

Streamlined business operations and automated workflows allow staff to focus on higher-value activities, improving productivity, workforce effectiveness, and institutional decision-making while reducing long-term operational costs and risk.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Upgrading the ERP system reduces dependence on aging legacy hardware, lowers maintenance costs, improves data security, and positions the university with a scalable, resilient digital infrastructure that supports long-term financial stability and institutional growth.

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SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

#2 CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

Overview & Justification

This initiative will produce a comprehensive campus-wide master plan that encompasses all facilities (including Playas, Magdalena Ridge, and Hilton Ranch), utility infrastructure, irrigation systems, and landscaped areas.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.5M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

A new master plan will enhance institutional performance by aligning campus development with strategic goals, improving operational efficiency, and guiding cost-effective capital investments. It will also enhance the campus experience, support sustainability, and reduce risks associated with outdated infrastructure.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

A new master plan is essential for the campus to efficiently and effectively guide future capital projects. This includes planning facilities to support collaborations with industry partners for joint initiatives. The most recent master plan was completed in 2000.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Without a master plan, the campus risks inefficient use of resources, uncoordinated and costly capital projects, and increased maintenance emergencies due to aging infrastructure. Lack of strategic alignment can hinder growth and competitiveness, while missed funding opportunities may limit financial support. Additionally, campus appeal and functionality may decline, negatively impacting recruitment and retention.

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SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

#3 STEM CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Overview & Justification

This initiative represents a critical investment in New Mexico Tech's commitment to student retention and degree completion, specifically targeting Hispanic and low-income students. Building upon a recent record 85% sophomore return rate, the project focuses on scaling proven interventions like Supplemental Instruction and peer mentoring. By addressing the specific barriers that lead to student attrition—such as academic difficulty in rigorous STEM coursework and financial insecurity—the project aims to move the university closer to its strategic goals of a sustained 80+% fall-to-fall retention rate and a 60% six-year graduation rate.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.35M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

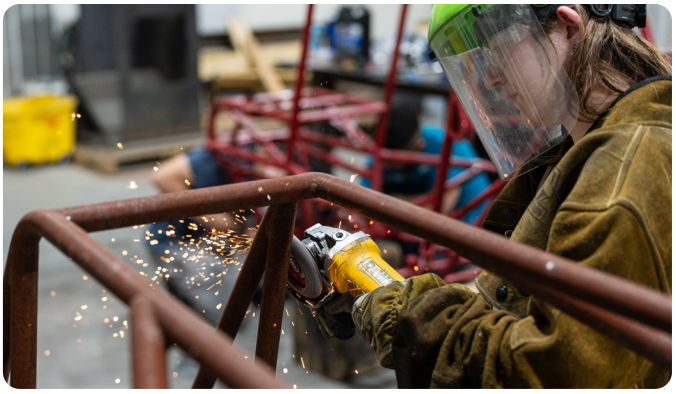
The funding will be used to enhance high-impact academic support services and expand belonging-centered programming. Key components include the development of a "Week Zero" transition program, increased tutoring capacity for undergraduate gateway courses, and the modernization of smart classrooms to support collaborative, technology-enhanced instruction. These efforts are designed to create a more integrated support ecosystem, ensuring that every student, regardless of background, has the resources to navigate the complexities of a STEM-focused education.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

By improving student persistence and graduation outcomes, NMT strengthens the local workforce, providing highly skilled graduates for New Mexico's emerging technology and energy sectors.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Investing in this initiative is essential for identifying the most impactful activities for improving student success at New Mexico Tech. This will help secure our long-term financial resilience and our role as an economic driver for the state.



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FY2027 SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

#4 CRITICAL MINERALS RESEARCH CENTER

Overview & Justification

Research and workforce cultivation regarding critical minerals represent a strategic imperative for the U.S. government, underpinned by the needs of national security and the shift toward sustainable energy technologies. New Mexico contains a wealth of geological systems with widely underexplored critical mineral deposits, including Rare Earth Elements (REE). Understanding where and how these minerals form and having the expertise to characterize their mineralogy and geochemistry in the subsurface is key to developing vectors for mineral exploration, development of new mining and separation technologies, and environmental remediation strategies. New Mexico Tech is ideally suited to lead the nation in critical minerals and REE research, with nationally and internationally recognized researchers with active and cutting-edge field-based and analytical research portfolios. The New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR), the state's geological survey and research division of New Mexico Tech, has partners across the New Mexico Tech campus, other NM universities, and the national laboratories, offering a unique environment for geological research, advancing the priorities of the state and nation.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $3M over 3 years**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

The critical minerals sector requires a new generation of highly skilled professionals trained in discovery, assessment, extraction, and technology development. New Mexico Tech, through the NMBGMR, is uniquely positioned to provide multidisciplinary education and workforce training that integrates field geology, laboratory analysis, computational research, and public outreach. This platform prepares students and researchers to support industry, consulting, and national research needs in the critical minerals sector.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

Critical minerals and REE are essential to modern technologies, national security, and the transition to clean energy. New Mexico's strong mining legacy, significant untapped resources, and geological diversity position the state to play a key role in the domestic critical minerals supply chain. Leveraging expertise at New Mexico Tech, this initiative supports job creation, attracts investment, strengthens rural economies, and reduces reliance on foreign mineral sources while advancing clean energy and advanced manufacturing efforts.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

The research team currently manages over $7.5M in active critical minerals contracts and has reached capacity for growth. A modest, one-time $3M state investment over three years will expand research capacity and enable collaboration across campus and external partners. This initial investment positions New Mexico to secure larger, long-term federal funding through DOE and NSF programs, supporting sustainable research growth and the development of a nationally recognized research center.

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FY2027
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

#5 PLAYAS WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION HUB

Overview & Justification

This $7M request will establish an industry-ready wireless technology hub at the Playas Research and Training Center. The hub will provide real-world, instrumented test ranges and laboratories to accelerate the development, testing, and deployment of emerging wireless technologies, including spectrum operations, resilient networks, and edge AI. By shortening the path from research to fielded capability for defense and commercial users, the project strengthens New Mexico's role in national security, public safety, and advanced communications innovation.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $7M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

The Playas Wireless Technology Innovation Hub will provide hands-on training opportunities for students and researchers in advanced wireless systems, network resilience, cybersecurity, and applied AI. Experiential learning in real-world test environments will prepare graduates for high-demand careers in AI, cybersecurity, national security, telecommunications, and critical infrastructure sectors.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

This project supports workforce development and economic growth by creating a pipeline of skilled talent aligned with industry and defense needs. The hub provides critical technology testbeds that will attract industry partners, federal research investment, and commercial users, supporting job creation, innovation, and economic diversification across New Mexico.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

The Playas Research and Training Center offers a scalable, reusable test environment that supports sustained research, partnerships, and revenue-generating activities. This investment establishes durable infrastructure that enables long-term federal funding, industry collaboration, and continued economic and workforce benefits for the state.

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FY2027 SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

#6 EQUIPMENT ACQUISITION & REPLACEMENT

Overview & Justification

- One-time funding is requested to strengthen statewide research capacity and workforce/student training through critical laboratory infrastructure investments at the Petroleum Recovery Research Center (PRRC).
- The PRRC seeks to acquire a Mass Spectrometer for PFAS (or "forever chemicals" that include PFOS) measurements, enabling advanced environmental and wastewater treatment research vital to NM.
- One-time support will replace outdated and nonfunctional communal-use laboratory equipment essential to federally and industry-funded projects that align with New Mexico's strategic priorities in energy, water, sustainability, and workforce development.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.15M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research & Educational Impact

Contamination by man-made "forever chemicals" is one of New Mexico's most pressing environmental challenges, with high demand for advanced research on its characterization. Presently, NMT lacks any instruments to measure PFAS/PFOS, limiting our ability to validate PRRC's membrane filtration technologies for wastewater treatment. A triple quadrupole mass spectrometer is urgently needed to fill this gap, supporting statewide environmental protection, research, and workforce development.

Additionally, the PRRC's broader research capacity depends on maintaining modern laboratory infrastructure. As one of New Mexico's most successful externally funded research centers, the PRRC manages an average of $11.975M in research funding annually with a five-year average ROI of about 4.16. To sustain this success, the PRRC needs to replace its outdated and nonfunctional communal-use laboratory equipment so that it can continue to deliver high-quality, timely research outcomes of statewide and national importance. Replacement of this equipment is the second component to this request.

The acquisition and replacement of the requested instrumentation is important to the institution's research and educational mission. The PRRC is committed to providing students access to all aspects of our research activities that includes routinely using the requested instrumentation. Approximately 55 undergraduate and graduate students work at the PRRC each year, spanning the STEM disciplines at NMT. These students pursue employment in academia and industry, often in New Mexico – and are therefore a critical element to our mission to train our future STEM workforce.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

This one-time investment will enable the PRRC to expand its research on PFAS/PFOS, ensure reliable laboratory capacity for critical projects, continue attracting major federal and industry investment, and train the next generation of scientists and engineers—securing long-term returns for New Mexico.

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#7 WINTER POOL SHELTER

Overview & Justification

- One-time funding is requested to facilitate the permanent enclosure of a regional aquatic center. This project is a proactive response to the closure of the failing campus swim center in early 2026.
- Requested funds will be used to construct a permanent, hard-shell structural enclosure over an existing pool. This transformation will convert a seasonal outdoor asset into a year-round, climate-controlled facility. This strategic move ensures the continuity of aquatic services for NMT students and the broader region.
- NMT will assume full operational management of the site, leveraging University expertise in facility maintenance and administration to ensure long-term sustainability while minimizing the total capital burden on the State.
- The project is supported by a robust financial partnership that includes a $200K commitment and guaranteed annual operating subsidy to ensure the facility remains high-performing without state operational requests.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $800K**

Impact & Benefits

1. Continuity of Service

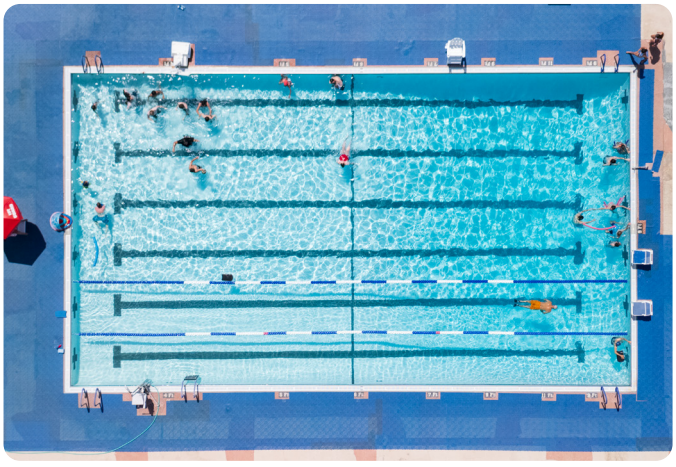
Prevents the total loss of year-round aquatic access for the Central Rio Grande Valley following the decommissioning of the original NMT facility in March 2026.

2. Student Recruitment & Retention

Maintains a critical wellness and competitive athletic amenity essential for New Mexico Tech's ability to attract world-class students and faculty.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

By managing a regional site rather than rebuilding a standalone university pool, NMT reduces long-term capital needs while maximizing the utility of an existing public infrastructure.



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#8 HYDROGEOLOGY NEW MEXICO

Overview & Justification

- This year's appropriation request is to support aquifer characterization and monitoring activities across the state as part of the Governor's 50-year Water Action Plan along with implementation of the NM Water Data Act.
- The New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR) will help New Mexico and the state agencies tasked with managing water gain a better understanding of groundwater resources (fresh and brackish) that are available, in terms of quantity and quality.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $22M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research & Educational Impact

New Mexico is facing numerous water shortages and management challenges, which are worsening with increasing aridity. The NMBGMR works to support state agencies tasked with managing water by providing applied hydrogeologic science to map groundwater resources. We are addressing this challenge by developing new integrated water data platforms and tools by collaborating with local, state and federal partners, and filling numerous data gaps related to the state's groundwater resources (fresh and brackish).

Funding will be used on a variety of regional projects and data programs working in collaboration with various agencies. This includes well drilling as part of building a 100-well monitoring network, data collection to inform groundwater models, land-based and aerial geophysical surveys so that fresh and brackish water aquifers, recharge zones, and basin structures can be sufficiently mapped.

The NMBGMR is committed to providing students access to all aspects of our research activities that includes participating in this important initiative. Approximately 70 undergraduate and graduate students are supported by the NMBGMR each year and these students pursue employment in academia and industry, often in New Mexico. Therefore, they are a critical element to our mission in training the future STEM workforce.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

This work will enhance the state's responsiveness to groundwater inquiries by improving groundwater data and interpretive models of the state's groundwater basins. As an added value, partnerships between NMT and state agencies provide opportunities for student engagement and a workforce pipeline from one of the state's premier research universities.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

This comprehensive program, needed to carefully manage New Mexico's increasingly limited water resources, is in the second year of a special appropriation request. To meet the vision of the Governor's 50-Year Water Action Plan, the estimated cost of the entire program is approximately $175M over 12 years.

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#9 AUTONOMOUS DRONE CENTER

Overview & Justification

- The proposed Autonomous Drone Center will leverage and combine NMT's existing strengths in drone faculty and student research and education with the drone training programs and energetic materials research and testing performed at NMT's research centers.
- By combining existing excellence in research, hands-on training, student support, explosive materials research and testing, and workforce programs, this initiative will prepare the next generation of New Mexico's STEM workforce, empower communities with valuable skill sets, and position the state as a national leader in autonomous drones and national security.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $2.52M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research & Educational Impact

The Center will expand NMT's research capabilities, professional development training programs, and educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. This will help recruit new students to NMT to study post secondary degrees, enhance collaborations with the National Laboratories and industry, and meet STEM workforce needs in New Mexico.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

The initiative will create a statewide hub for drones and autonomous systems that directly serves New Mexico's STEM workforce needs in manufacturing automation, drone operators in critical NM fields including agriculture, infrastructure inspection, healthcare, logistics, and construction, and serve the nation's need for national security training, testing and research.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

This request provides one-time funding to establish the required infrastructure (drone enclosures) that support the University's educational and testing programs, and position New Mexico Tech researchers for significant funding opportunities available through federal programs. This request expands our capacity to compete at the national level in the area of drone technology and testing.

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#10 NMT'S BRAND REFRESH & MARKETING

Overview & Justification

- One-time funding is requested to support a comprehensive brand refresh and multi-channel marketing campaign for New Mexico Tech.
- Our goal is to enhance our recruiting efforts by elevating the university's visibility so that prospective students can discover New Mexico's "hidden gem". We aim to attract a broader pool of highly qualified students from both in-state and out-of-state markets at a time when demographic shifts are intensifying competition for enrollment.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $2M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Branding & Messaging

New Mexico Tech is a top-ranked STEM institution and a national leader in research.
From Niche:

- #1 in New Mexico
- Overall Niche Grade: **A**
- Academics: **A**
- Value: **A+** (#10 of 1563)
- Best Small College (#21 of 1010)

And yet we remain a "hidden gem." A full brand refresh is essential to moving beyond this narrative and articulate NMT's core identity and value proposition. This component of the initiative will include developing a new, distinctive visual identity that appeals to modern students along with crafting a compelling messaging strategy that highlights NMT's unique academic strengths, hands-on research opportunities, and exceptional postgraduate career outcomes.

2. Targeted Marketing and Student Recruitment

This component of the investment will power a robust, data-driven marketing campaign to attract and engage high-achieving prospective STEM students both within and outside of New Mexico. This includes the use of advanced data analytics to create hyper-personalized communications, targeted ads, and virtual engagement experiences for prospective students.

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#11 ENERGETIC MATERIALS RESEARCH AND TESTING CENTER VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS

Overview & Justification

- The Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC) has a significant shortage of vehicles capable of operating in the rugged terrain of the test range, with some vehicles in operation that are over twenty-years old.
- Our operations to support research, testing and training for defense, aerospace, homeland and national security, have expanded, which has exacerbated this deficit. Lack of vehicles hinders research, education, and ability to create new jobs.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research & Educational Impact

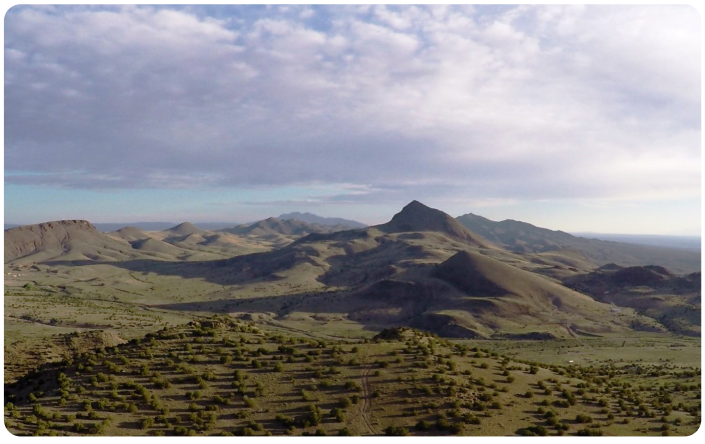
Funds are needed to schedule needed research contract activity on our range and provide learning opportunities for our research students.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

More vehicles allow for more training, testing and research activities, directly impacting new jobs at NMT and more trainees visiting the local Socorro area.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Funds are for vehicle purchase only; we manage maintenance through our special service center and on-site mechanic shop.



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#12 ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, MATERIALS & METROLOGY CENTER

Overview & Justification

- The new Center at will provide easy access to advanced materials manufacturing, metrology, and modeling using state-of-the-art instrumentation and expert analysis.
- New Mexico Tech is well-positioned to lead the state in advanced manufacturing, materials science and metrology. The Materials & Metallurgical Engineering Department at NMT is the only ABET-accredited materials engineering undergraduate program in the State and is poised to lead these efforts.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $351,167**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research & Educational Impact

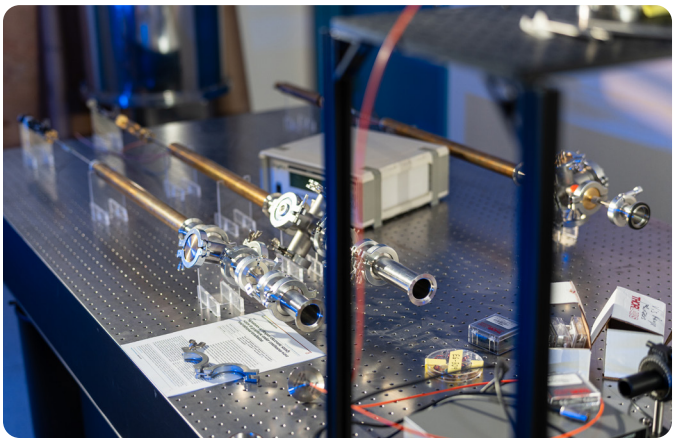
The Center will directly impact student educational and research experiences and improve student enrollment and success in a variety of engineering and science disciplines. The Center will grow advanced manufacturing and metrology research and development capabilities at NMT and in the State, including through new collaborations with National Laboratories and New Mexico universities.

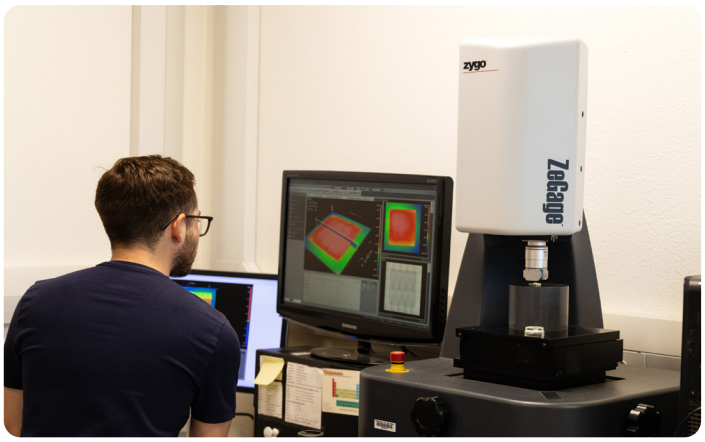
2. Economic & Workforce Impact

The Center will assist with training our future STEM workforce through increased collaboration and hands-on opportunities between NMT's academic departments and research centers with high-tech companies in New Mexico. The Center will also support technology development and commercialization efforts in advanced manufacturing, an area critical to economic development in rural New Mexico.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

This one-time funding request will establish the required infrastructure and pilot research and testing programs, and position New Mexico Tech researchers for significant funding opportunities available through federal programs..





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FY2027 RESEARCH AND PUBLIC SERVICE PROJECT (RPSP) REQUESTS

Overview & Justification

New Mexico Tech's FY2027 RPSP requests support the expansion and continuation of critical research, education, and workforce programs across the state. These investments strengthen STEM education, advance high-impact research, and support economic development while sustaining programs that serve industry, government, and New Mexico communities.

Complete List of NMT's RPSP Requests

Category	Estimated Amount	Key Function & Advocacy Points
1. NM Homeland & National Security Center ($350K Expansion)	**$1.02M**	Conducts research, training, and technology development for national security. **Advocacy Point**: Expansion adds faculty and funds wireless network technology development at the Playas Research and Training Center.
2. NM Cybersecurity Center of Excellence ($249.7K Expansion)	**$800K**	**Advocacy Point**: Funds a faculty position and supports the creation of a new cybersecurity bachelor's degree aligned with two-year programs to provide hands-on training and workforce development.
3. NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources ($1.3M Expansion)	**$7.95M**	The state's geological survey that serves the public by gathering and sharing scientific information on NM's geology and hydrology. **Advocacy Point:** Expansion funding is requested to support the state's 50-year Water Action Plan and research related to critical minerals.
4. STEM Outreach & Professional Development ($194.434K Expansion)	**$414.3K**	This request is for mentor-supported competitions (e.g., Science Olympiad) to inspire STEM education and build a skilled workforce along with supporting K-12 math/science teachers by providing scholarships for the Master of Science for Teachers.
5. Petroleum Recovery Research Center ($150K Expansion)	**$2.37M**	The research arm of the state's oil and gas industry. Will research environmentally friendly technologies. **Advocacy Point:** Supports relocation to a new research facility ensuring uninterrupted operations along with purchasing insurance to meet the requirements of private industry partnered projects.
6. Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (Continuing)	**$1.07M**	This research center provides expertise in research, testing, and evaluation of energetic materials and explosives.
7. Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (Continuing)	**$1.26M**	This research center provides solutions for national security and infrastructure protection, specializing in translational data science.
8. Geophysical Research Center (Continuing)	**$1.57M**	Supports faculty and students focused on climate research in atmospheric physics, chemistry, and earth sciences.
9. National Cave & Karst Research Institute (Continuing)	**$430K**	An institute created by Congress and the state of NM to serve as a hub for research and education on caves and karst terrain.
10. Student Research Assistantships in Chemical Engineering (Continuing)	**$200K**	Provides assistantships to students conducting research with Chemical Engineering faculty.
11. NM Bureau of Mine Inspection/ Safety ($182.8K Expansion)	**$573.5K**	Statutorily mandated agency responsible for mine safety enforcement and training. **Advocacy Point:** due to Federal funding cuts for FY27, additional funds are requested so the existing training program that currently serves over 2,000 NM miners may continue.
12. New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement ($42.9K Expansion)	**$1.23M**	Provides STEM enrichment for middle and high schools, focusing on rural students. **Advocacy Point:** Funds to support a cost of living increase.
13. STEM Center Pathways for Student Success (New)	**$930K**	**Advocacy Point:** New request to expand STEM access for underrepresented students and align programs with workforce needs.
14. Rural Economic Development Program ($15K Expansion)	**$48K**	Regional organization supporting economic development in four rural counties. **Advocacy Point:** Additional funds will support operational expenses and travel for site visits, business prospect meetings, and community presentations.

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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#1 NM HOMELAND & NATIONAL SECURITY CENTER (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

The New Mexico Center for Homeland and National Security advances the nation's security while acting as an economic force multiplier for New Mexico. We aspire to be the nation's preeminent applied research academic organization at the nexus of interdisciplinary research, technology development, policy innovation, and talent cultivation. The Center strengthens national, physical, community, and economic security by delivering solutions that build resilient communities and critical infrastructure, accelerate technology commercialization, and create high-wage jobs across New Mexico—including rural and tribal communities.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.02M ($350K Expansion)**

The requested funds will accelerate the Center's mission by (1) positioning research at New Mexico Tech to strengthen national and homeland security, (2) expanding first responder training and homeland security research and testing programs, and (3) strengthening business development and research compliance to attract outside customers and federal sponsors to New Mexico. Expansion funds will be used to support the Playas Research and Training Center in becoming the premier research, testing, and training environment for wireless communications and dynamic spectrum sharing, including 5G/6G, resilient mission-critical networks, spectrum coexistence, and field-scale experimentation, positioning New Mexico as a national leader in next-generation communications.

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

The Center supports New Mexico Tech's National Domestic Preparedness Consortium training, which has been funded through FEMA at the $21-22M level for over 20 years. This program has enhanced the training reputation of New Mexico Tech to include the top instructors within the United States as well as operating and maintaining one of the most state-of-the-art explosives facility in the world. In addition, the Center supports participation with the Air Force Research Laboratory STEM Engagement programs.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

The Center leads resilience-building initiatives that integrate nonprofit and for-profit partners in emergency preparedness, infrastructure protection, and economic recovery programming to safeguard livelihoods and speed local recovery. The Center is also a strong partner in building a mission-ready, high-skill workforce through education, apprenticeships, and upskilling pipelines that connect New Mexicans to high-wage careers in security, aerospace/defense, energy, and advanced technologies.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

The requested funding will support capability development that will be utilized for many years and maintained long term with research funding from government and private partnerships. In addition to the $21-22M FEMA grant, capability building at the Playas Research and Training Center to be able to execute Cyber/EW/Physical training, research and testing for federal and industry partners is underpinned through a $92.9M IDIQ contract.

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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#2 NM CYBERSECURITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

The New Mexico Cybersecurity Center of Excellence advances statewide and national cybersecurity by growing cybersecurity research, economic development, workforce development and improving the cybersecurity stance of the state of New Mexico, its businesses, educational institutions, and citizens. The Center's innovative programs include educational programs, cybersecurity research, and cyber hygiene training for K-12 through senior citizens.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $800K ($249.7K Expansion)**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

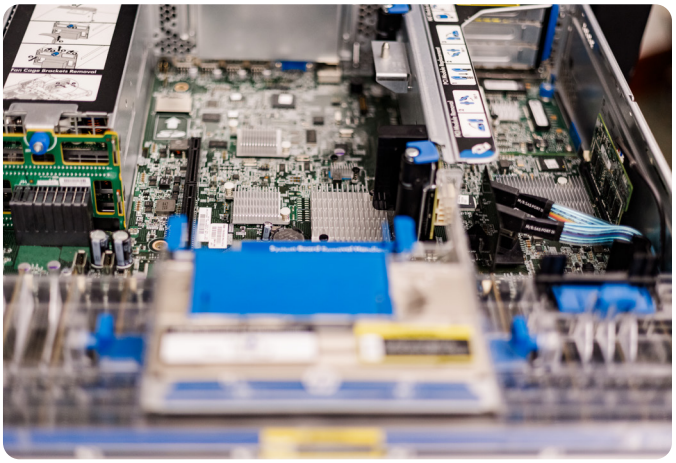
The Cybersecurity Center of Excellence has developed innovative cybersecurity programs, including graduate programs and cybersecurity research, and enhances cybersecurity research and information flow between universities and industry. Through our Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity graduate programs to train leaders in cybersecurity, we serve students from many disciplines and New Mexico teachers who inspire the next generation of STEM students. Through outreach, the Center serves New Mexico's K-12 student population. Through our research programs, we engage students from the high school to PhD level. Finally, the proposed expansion positions the Center to educate bachelor's level students in interdisciplinary cybersecurity to meet the workforce needs of New Mexico while remediating newly discovered vulnerabilities for New Mexico organizations.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

The Cybersecurity Center of Excellence aims to grow and support cybersecurity economic development, including entrepreneurial workforce development, the growth of cybersecurity companies, and improve the cybersecurity stance of the state of New Mexico, its businesses, and its citizens.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

The Cybersecurity Center of Excellence continues to increase the impact for the state of New Mexico through its research, cyber hygiene training and outreach, workforce development, collaborative funding proposals, volunteer programs, and student support and engagement.



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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#3 NM BUREAU OF GEOLOGY & MINERAL RESOURCES (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

The mission of the NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources (NMBGMR) is the state's geological survey and the primary science agency for gathering and sharing scientific information on the geologic framework of New Mexico as established by statute. The NMBGMR is a non-regulatory agency serving not only the university but decision-makers, policymakers, the private sector, other scientists, and the general public. Primary programs include geologic mapping, evaluation of the state's energy, mineral, and water resources, conducting basic geologic research, archiving and disseminating mining, petroleum, and rock core data, assessing geological hazards, and providing public education and outreach. The NMBGMR collaborates with local, county, state, federal, and tribal agencies.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $7.95M ($1.3M Expansion)**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

We integrate with New Mexico Tech's academic mission through teaching and student advising and through our laboratory facilities, which serve students and faculty by providing sophisticated analytical instrumentation that would otherwise be unavailable on campus. As a research arm of a technical university, we enhance the reputation and offerings of the university, and we collaborate with a number of departments in research programs. We also employ a number of undergraduate and graduate students throughout the NMBGMR. FY2025, we employed 56 New Mexico Tech students with approximately $610K in state and federal funding sources.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

Because we are a data and analysis-focused organization, we contribute to the economic development of New Mexico by creating, archiving, and disseminating free, high-quality, unbiased scientific information about the state's geological and hydrological resources. This information is used by a wide range of groups, including extractive, environmental, and development industries, decision-makers, policymakers, university researchers, and the general public. As such, we play a vital role in promoting understanding of the geology and hydrology of our state. The return on investment made in state geological surveys is estimated to be between $30-60 for every state dollar that goes towards survey support.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Established by statute, the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources has served New Mexicans since 1927, supporting the state at local, regional, and federal levels. The NMBGMR collaborates with industry and government partners to advance geological and hydrological research, water management, and planning, and is designated as the convening agency for the New Mexico Water Data Initiative. Its programs support the Governor's water policy priorities, including the 50-Year Water Action Plan, and its economic geology team is nationally recognized for leadership in critical minerals and rare earth research. Through education, outreach, and public engagement, the NMBGMR serves New Mexico citizens while training students and educators and advancing STEM opportunities statewide.

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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#4 STEM OUTREACH & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

Addressing New Mexico's shortage of STEM professionals and K–12 STEM teachers, the program delivers high-quality, mentor-supported competitions that build workforce skills, inspire career pathways, and reach rural and underserved students. This RPSP began with the New Mexico Science & Engineering Fair and New Mexico Science Olympiad and has expanded to include Miner Mayhem Combat Robotics and the annual Water Symposium with Navajo Technical University (NTU), connecting students to careers addressing Navajo Nation water challenges.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $414.3K ($194.4K Expansion**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

Our mission is to expand access to high-quality STEM education across New Mexico through statewide competitions, teacher development, and direct student engagement. By leveraging the Science Olympiad, the Science & Engineering Fair, and Miner Mayhem Combat Robotics, we inspire students, prepare educators, and strengthen the state's STEM pipeline for the future workforce. Through partnership with NM MESA, we can reach 39% of all public schools in the state. The majority of participating students come from rural, minority, and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Our partnership with NTU allows us to extend intentional outreach to Native American students. With the expansion of this RPSP, we will support a Native American Outreach Program to strengthen these efforts.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

This project has a significant statewide impact on building participation in STEM activities. By leveraging partnerships with NM MESA, NTU, and others, we broaden access to STEM while also training and supporting teachers, which strengthens the STEM teacher pipeline. NMT's Literacy & STEM Mentoring Program has directly inspired NMT students to pursue teaching careers, multiplying long-term impact.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Strong partnerships within NMT and across New Mexico have enabled the creation and growth of innovative STEM competitions and programs—including the Science Olympiad, the NM Science & Engineering Fair, Miner Mayhem Combat Robotics, the NTU-NMT Water Symposium, and new middle school STEM engagement activities. These collaborations will continue to expand access and opportunities for students statewide.

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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#5 PETROLEUM RECOVERY RESEARCH CENTER (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

- The Petroleum Recovery Research Center (PRRC) of New Mexico Tech has been the research arm of the oil and natural gas industry in New Mexico since its establishment as a research division of NMT by the New Mexico State Legislature in 1977.
- Along with improving methods of enhanced oil and gas recovery and diversifying energy technologies related to the oil and gas industry, the PRRC conducts research in more environmentally friendly technologies, advanced methods of produced water treatment, means of sequestering greenhouse gases, and nanoscale technology.
- This expansion request seeks funding to purchase sufficient insurance to meet the requirements of private industry partners.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $2.37M ($150K Expansion)**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research & Educational Impact

New Mexico is blessed with plentiful natural resources, making it a large net exporter of energy. With a diversified portfolio, the PRRC continuously expands beyond the traditional hydrocarbon research and oil & gas recovery methods. By embracing new areas of investigation such as membrane technology, carbon sequestration, nanotechnology, and chemical/optics sensors, the PRRC has built a diversified portfolio with sponsored project awards exceeding $170M.

The PRRC is committed to providing students access to all aspects of our research activities. Approximately 55 undergraduate and graduate students work at the PRRC each year, spanning the STEM disciplines at NMT. These students pursue employment in academia and industry, often in New Mexico – and are therefore a critical element to our mission to train our future STEM workforce.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

Many of the PRRC's initiatives are significant for the technology transfer that will ensue as a result of the research conducted through them; for supporting New Mexico Tech's continuing leadership in research; and for the enhancement of economic development for the state of New Mexico.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

The PRRC has leveraged the state funding it receives to secure support for 36 externally funded projects. With an ROI of about 5:1, the PRRC's 5-year average annual budget is approximately $12M that includes funding distributed by the PRRC to collaborators at partner universities, National Labs, and companies in New Mexico.

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#6 ENERGETIC MATERIALS RESEARCH AND TESTING CENTER (CONTINUING)

Overview & Justification

- The Energetic Material Research and Testing Center (EMRTC), established in 2003 under NMSA 21-11-8.3, is a major research center of NMT. EMRTC actively supports NMT's mission by serving the citizens of New Mexico through education, research, public service, and economic development.
- EMRTC's excellence in research, development, testing, and evaluation in addition to national-scale training is evidenced through its consistent success in obtaining a high degree of federal and private contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements, with the focus on (1) maintaining a pipeline for New Mexico's next-generation of professional scientists and engineers, (2) development of technology, and (3) testing and evaluation of developmental and commercial systems featuring energetic materials.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.07M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research and Educational Impact

Major accomplishments from RPSP funding in FY25 include the release of 77 bids and proposals, generating approximately $25 million in research awards. For the fiscal year ending June 2025, every $1 invested through RPSP generated over $9 dollars of contract activity that was awarded to NMT on behalf of EMRTC. EMRTC also employed 41 in-state students in FY25. These students worked on various projects including customized software development, range support, and instrumentation design.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

EMRTC addresses critical emerging challenges in national defense as U.S. global hegemony weakens; as technological gaps with peer adversaries continue to emerge at an alarming rate; and as a shortage of young professional scientists and engineers in the field of energetic materials continues to affect both government agencies and commercial industry.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

The project receives a high quantity of contracts from government and commercial entities. However, RPSP investment into EMRTC by the state of New Mexico is crucial towards increasing return on investment for the state in the forms of increased employment, material procurements from businesses native to New Mexico, and student financial assistance and training.

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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#7 INSTITUTE FOR COMPLEX ADDITIVE SYSTEMS ANALYSIS (CONTINUING)

Overview & Justification

- The mission of the Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis (ICASA) is to contribute innovative and relevant solutions to national security and critical infrastructure protection problems. This is achieved through examining the control plane of the system — the mechanisms that enable it to dynamically change and respond to its environment.
- The growing complexity in infrastructure vulnerability analysis and protection, information assurance, information warfare, and information operations necessitated federal agencies and the U.S. Intelligence Community to develop capabilities to model, analyze, and manage complex systems.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.26M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research and Educational Impact

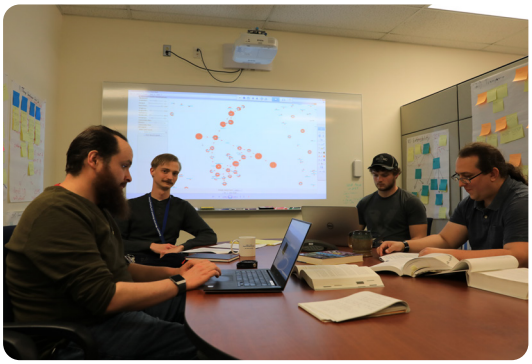
The results of ICASA's work have enabled new concepts and methods for assessing the vulnerabilities of virtually any evolving complex infrastructure. ICASA has proven invaluable in educating and training its personnel, as well as those at its customer sites, in creative thinking processes. Traditional educational programs, which often separate disciplines, are not designed to produce these critically important, interdisciplinary problem solvers.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

ICASA is committed to solving modern day national security problems by taking a basic research and development (R&D) approach and then transferring our R&D efforts through technology transfer to federal and state agencies. ICASA applies proven rapid-prototyping methods, making them product-ready. This model has added economic development value to New Mexico by creating hundreds of students with high-paying jobs across National Labs and local companies.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

ICASA advances cutting-edge data analytics and data science in the public interest research, fostering future subject matter experts to solve statewide problems. Research conducted by ICASA is applied to real-world problems, ensuring practical impact, and has received both federal and state-sponsored research funding.



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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS #8 GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH CENTER (CONTINUING)

Overview & Justification

- The Geophysical Research Center (GRC) supports 52 faculty and staff positions that conduct critical climate research in atmospheric physics, chemistry, and earth and environmental sciences including hydrology.
- Through RPSP funds, NMT's GRC personnel are able to attract external funding to carry out large-scale, novel research projects that have direct impact on New Mexico's economic development and student learning.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.57M**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research and Educational Impact

The academic departments supported by the GRC served 127 New Mexico in-state residents in FY 2025, and GRC faculty supported 50 graduate and 42 undergraduate students on their research grants.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

GRC funds provide well-educated geoscience professionals for New Mexico. In particular, graduate technical professionals with advanced degrees to address New Mexico's water, climate, and natural hazard problems and for economic development.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

In FY 2025, GRC researchers generated over $6.5M in new grant awards, and made significant scientific contributions through publications, presentations, service and outreach activities. Existing and new funding awards in aggregate totaled $7.4M with $4.9M attributable to direct federal government funding.

FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS #14 RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

The Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association's (MRGEDA) mission is to enhance the quality of life and foster economic vitality across Valencia, Socorro, Sierra, and Catron counties by creating quality jobs and generating tax revenue. Funding supports staff, operations, and programmatic activities for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $48K ($15K Expansion)**

Impact & Benefits

The initiative aims to increase the number of small businesses and residents assisted by MRGEDA's services while driving job and business growth across the four-county region.

State funding is leveraged to maximize impact from local contributions, membership dues, NMEDD, and federal grants, including the USDA and Congressionally Directed Spending.

Strategic partnerships create long-term opportunities in STEM and the space industry.

Site due diligence and planning de-risk regional projects to accelerate permitting and capital deployment statewide.

Active board service for other New Mexico organizations translates regional insights into significant statewide impact.

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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#9 NATIONAL CAVE AND KARST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CONTINUING)

Overview & Justification

- The National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI) is a legislatively mandated research institute created by US Congress in 1998 and the state of New Mexico in 2004.
- Headquartered in Carlsbad, NCKRI is the nexus of research, education, information transfer, and resource management for caves and associated karst terrain: a critical, globally significant and poorly understood landscape.
- NCKRI is a partnership between NMT and the federal government (through the National Park Service), the state of New Mexico, and the city of Carlsbad.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $430K**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research and Educational Impact

NCKRI focuses on 1) developing research projects, mentoring students and post-graduate interns; 2) outreach: strengthening public engagement and STEM awareness among K-12 students, with Carlsbad area non-profit groups, schools, and state and national partners; 3) resource management: working with partners to balance development needs with resource protection in order to ensure we maintain livable communities on karst landscapes in New Mexico and beyond.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

NCKRI is enabling New Mexico to be the national hub for cave and karst information. Applied research and mitigations have prevented significant economic impacts from sinkhole collapses in southeastern New Mexico. NCKRI currently serves New Mexico Tech students, and Carlsbad area K-12 students for research and education programs.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

NCKRI is partially funded through federal mandate. Additionally, NCKRI is awarded federal grants from the Bureau of Land Management and NASA.

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#10 STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (CONTINUING)

Overview & Justification

- The goal of this program is to provide the resources necessary for NMT students to complete graduate research in chemical engineering laboratories and for undergraduate students to train in chemical engineering laboratories and continue to graduate studies at NMT through the accelerated MS Program or PhD Program.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $200K**

Impact & Benefits

1. Research and Educational Impact

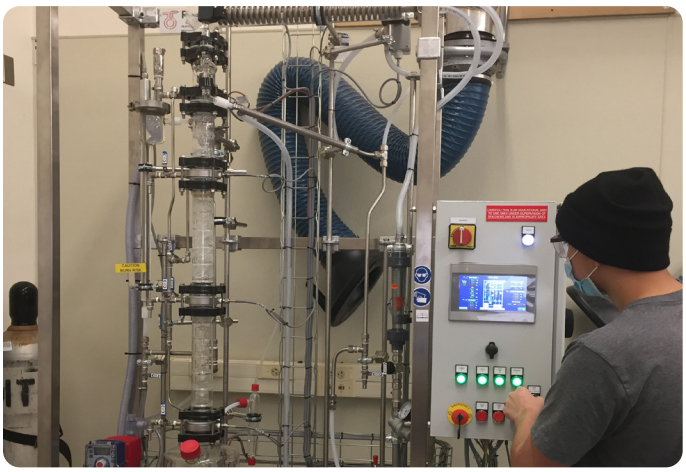
The project aims to support students for completion of a graduate degree in chemical engineering from NMT, including support for undergraduate students completing an accelerated masters degree. The majority (approximately 90%) of students are New Mexicans.

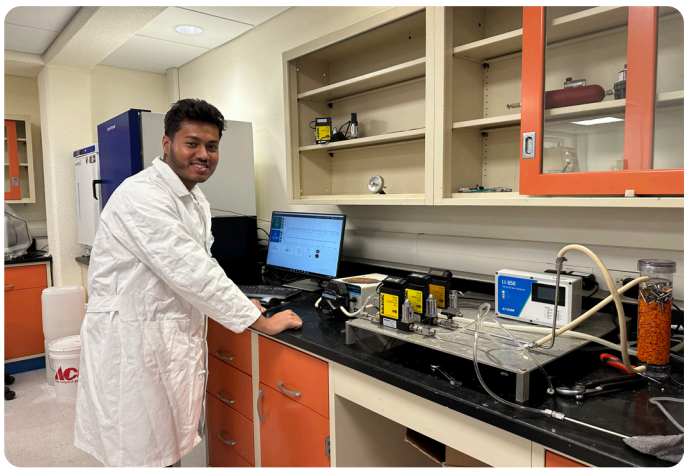
2. Economic & Workforce Impact

Graduates from this program find employment at Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratories, Intel, and other local NM industries, and mostly remain in NM after graduation, contributing to New Mexico's STEM workforce.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

Results from student research are leveraged by faculty to secure funding to federal or state research agencies including NSF, NIH, NASA, and DOE. When possible the funds will be used as cost share for Department of Energy grants, NASA, etc. that require cost share.





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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#11 NM BUREAU OF MINE INSPECTION/SAFETY (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

The New Mexico Bureau of Mine Safety (NMBMS) is requesting an expansion of its RPSP funding. The NMBMS's mission is to enforce state mining laws and provide federally mandated health and safety training for over 1,500 miners across New Mexico.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $570K**

The key services provided include enforcement of NM mining laws, mandatory MSHA safety training, First Aid, and mine rescue training, and maintaining the NM emergency operations center. The training program is crucial for legal compliance, directly contributes to accident reduction, and has helped New Mexico maintain a lower-than-national mine accident rate. In the past year, the NMBMS trained and/or certified 2,101 miners.

The expansion request is critical to replace $182.8K in lost federal MSHA grant funding. The total funding request for FY27 is $573.5K, which is necessary to continue statutorily mandated duties, especially the miner training program. Without this funding, the essential training program will be discontinued, impacting over 2,000 New Mexican miners and their families.

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

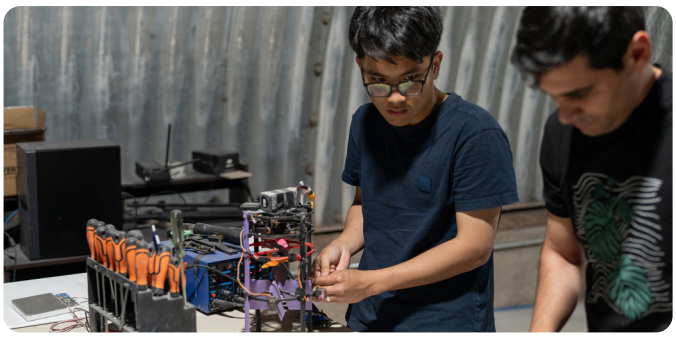
NMBMS provides mandatory safety education and certification for New Mexico's mining workforce, training and certifying 2,101 miners in the past year. These programs ensure compliance with federal and state regulations while promoting safer mining practices statewide.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

Mining remains an important economic driver in many rural communities across New Mexico. Continued safety training protects workers, reduces accidents and downtime, and supports workforce stability across the state's mining sector.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

This request ensures continuity of essential, statutorily mandated services following the loss of federal funding. RPSP support enables NMBMS to sustain its training programs, emergency response capabilities, and enforcement activities without disruption, safeguarding miner safety and regulatory compliance statewide.



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FY2027 RPSP REQUESTS

#12 NM MATHEMATICS, ENGINEERING, AND SCIENCE ACHIEVEMENT (EXPANSION)

Overview & Justification

New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement, Inc. (NM MESA) provides STEM enrichment for middle and high schools in an out-of-school format through partnerships with schools and higher education. The program provides MESA teacher training, supports student participation in college experiential learning, and focuses on the recruitment of rural school programs. Development of a summer algebra academy is a priority to help high school students reinforce the math skills necessary for STEM learning.

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $1.23M ($42.9K Expansion)**

Impact & Benefits

1. Educational Impact

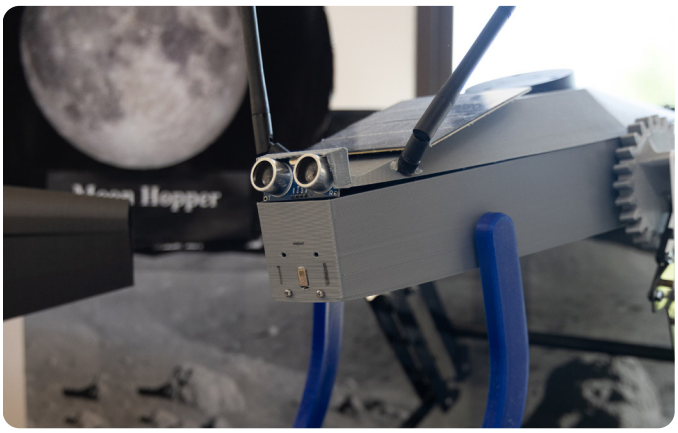
MESA is a year-round college preparatory program with a focus on supporting underserved students to improve their performance in STEM. By providing support and tools to spark students' interest in careers in STEM fields, and strong support in their pathway to successful careers in STEM.

2. Economic & Workforce Impact

MESA's model is to create a pathway between the school, higher education, and industry. We bring community and industry-relevant partners to the students' table, highlighting the meaningful STEM skill sets that can lead to a successful career for students. This supports our state's economic development, higher education and public education goals; moreover, it supports a cradle to career pathway for all New Mexicans specifically supporting students in grades 6-12.

3. Long-Term Sustainability

MESA continuously works to diversify its funding sources and continues to seek local and national funding opportunities through foundations, grants, and private donations. We collaborate wherever possible with many different partners around the state for state and federal grant opportunities.



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#13 STEM CENTER PATHWAYS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS (NEW)

Overview & Justification

Budget Summary & Funding Plan

- **Total Funding Requested: $930K**

The STEM Center Pathways for Student Success is a strategic initiative designed to expand equitable access to STEM education and careers for New Mexico students, with a particular focus on rural and tribal communities. The program centers on strengthening and scaling summer STEM immersion experiences, paired with guided support services and meaningful experiential learning opportunities that connect early engagement to long-term academic and workforce success. The mission aligns closely with state workforce needs, recognizing that while STEM careers represent roughly a quarter of the U.S. labor force and offer higher wages, existing educational pipelines are not keeping pace, especially for underserved populations, like many across New Mexico.

This is a targeted, high-impact strategy to improve student preparation, retention, and persistence in STEM fields while ensuring that every NMT student has access to experiential learning and creating a model for success that can be replicated for other workforce needs across New Mexico. By investing early in structured STEM pathways, the initiative directly addresses equity gaps, strengthens high-school-to-college transitions, and builds a sustainable pipeline aligned with New Mexico's workforce and economic development priorities.

Impact & Benefits

1. Expanded Equity and Access

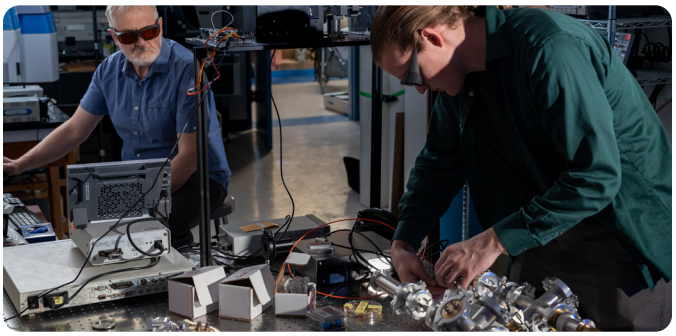
Significantly increases participation in high-quality STEM programs for rural, tribal, and underserved New Mexico students, closing preparation and opportunity gaps.

2. Improved Student Success Outcomes:

Strengthens retention, persistence, and engagement in STEM through early immersion, guided supports, and meaningful experiential learning tied to long-term sustainability.

3. Workforce and Economic Impact

Aligns education with high-demand STEM workforce needs, producing a more skilled talent pipeline that supports employers, economic growth, and community prosperity across the state.



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FY2027 "MINER" CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS

Overview & Justification

New Mexico Tech's FY2027 Minor Capital Outlay project requests directly address institutional needs for safety and upkeep while aligning with the priorities and funding mechanisms suggested by our legislative partners. Projects focus on life safety, regulatory compliance (ADA), physical asset preservation, and campus beautification, directly benefiting the student and staff experience.

Complete List of "Miner" Capital Outlay Projects

Category	Estimated Amount	Key Function & Advocacy Points
1. Atlamirano ADA Compliance in 2 Apartments	**$100K**	**Regulatory compliance:** Modifying two units in the Atlamirano housing complex will help achieve full ADA accessibility standards, fulfilling state and federal compliance requirements.
2. Replace MSA Roof B Building	**$125K**	**Asset preservation:** Replacing the failing roof system on Building B of the Mountain Springs Apartments will prevent further damage and protect a vital institutional asset.
3. Building Addressing for 911	**$100K**	**Life safety/emergency response:** Implementing standardized, visible building numbering and signage across campus will ensure rapid, accurate response by emergency services.
4. Facilities Parking Lot Replacement	**$115K**	**Infrastructure maintenance:** Fully replacing the heavily deteriorated parking lot at the Facilities Management complex will improve site access, drainage, and safety for staff operations.
5. EMRTC Parking Lot Crack Seal Repair	**$50K**	**Infrastructure maintenance:** Preventive maintenance on the EMRTC parking lot will halt further asphalt degradation and extend the lifespan of the pavement.
6. Painting Interior of Cramer Hall	**$115K**	**Asset preservation/student experience:** Interior painting of Cramer Hall, a heavily used academic and administrative building, will refresh and protect surfaces and enhance the student and visitor environment.
7. Lights for Athletic Field	**$100K**	**Student life/community engagement:** Installing basic lighting infrastructure for the athletic practice field will extend its usable hours for student sports, intramurals, and community activities.
8. Beautify South West Campus Entry	**$100K**	**Campus image:** Enhancing the primary southwestern campus entrance will create a welcoming and professional first impression for visitors and prospective students.
9. Roof Solar Array	**$100K**	**Sustainability/energy efficiency:** Installing a pilot solar array on a suitable campus building roof will offset utility costs and demonstrate the University's commitment to renewable energy initiatives.
10. Xeriscaping Around Campus	**$100K**	**Sustainability/beautification:** Strategic installation of low-water landscaping (xeriscaping) in high-visibility areas will reduce water usage, lower maintenance costs, and improve campus aesthetics.
11. Campus Space Improvements	**$1.5M**	**Infrastructure maintenance/student experience:** Upgrading classroom and laboratory spaces will enhance the student experience and facilitate effective ways to interact in teaching and research spaces throughout NMT, including spaces in Socorro, Eddy, and Hidalgo counties.
12. Equipment Repair and Replacement	**$1M**	**Infrastructure maintenance/student experience:** Replacing outdated instructional and research equipment along with expansion into new areas (e.g., spectrum science). This equipment is being used throughout NMT, including in Socorro, Eddy, and Hidalgo counties.
13. NM Supercomputing Challenge Program	**$210K**	**K-12 Student Experience:** Provides support to host a computational science competition at NMT for 5th-12th grade students and a summer institute for NM teachers at Los Alamos National Laboratory. *NMT is the fiscal agent of this request made by an outside organization.
14. Swim Center Renovation	**$3M**	**Asset preservation/community engagement:** Significant repairs need to be made to the only pool in the city of Socorro that can be enclosed by a shelter to provide year-long access to a swim facility. This facility is used by the high school swim team, the community swim team, the local community, along with faculty, staff, and students.
15. Graduate Student Assistance	**$250K**	**Student experience:** Support for graduate students that includes matching funds for fellowships and gap funding through limited-term graduate assistantships.

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THANK YOU

Thank you for supporting New Mexico Tech.

Your continued investment in higher education and research empowers innovation, strengthens our workforce, and drives economic growth throughout New Mexico.

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