

**What is an EPICS program?** EPICS is a nationally award-winning program in which teams of students partner with community organizations to implement collaborative, cross-discipline service-learning design projects to help address human, community, and environmental needs.

**Background:** UNM's program would mirror that of the [EPICS program at Purdue University](#), while adjusting for local culture, student population, and regional needs.

### **Additional Programmatic Information:**

- 1) The student engagement portion of your project can NOT be:
  - a. Clerical – the students MUST engage in actual research.
  - b. Within the critical pathway of a larger project.
- 2) Students are expected to commit 9 – 10 hours per week, with the exception of Fall/Spring break, resulting in approximately 15 weeks of engagement per semester.
- 3) UNM is not legally liable for any aspect of this research/project. The community partner takes full liability and responsibility for insuring the students when in direct association with the EPICS project.
- 4) The community partner will comply with Federal and State employment laws and regulations regarding workers compensation and liability insurance, ADA requirements, and equal opportunity employment for students engaged in associated EPICS projects.
- 5) The community partner agrees to inform the UNM EPICS program coordinators in a prompt manner of any changes to the students involvement in an EPICS project, including but not limited to student performance, status, duties, work hours, or anything that would alter the EPICS project agreement or would impede in having the EPICS student to successfully complete the project.
- 6) At this point in time, the community partner must cover all material costs associated with the project. If this is a bottle neck to your participation in the program, please indicate your needs in the interest form when prompted. We will do our best to accommodate these projects, but priority will be given to self-funded projects.

### **The selection of community partners, is based on these key criteria:**

- *Significance* - not all projects can be undertaken, so partners whose projects should provide the greatest benefit to the community are given priority.
- *Level of Technology* - projects must be challenging to, but within the capabilities of, undergraduates. While EPICS at UNM will ultimately draw from many disciplines, each team must have an engineering design component.
- *Expected Duration* - Currently, we offer a 1 semester or 2 semester option. But as the program grows, projects that will span several semesters or even years offer the greatest opportunity for our students to participate in an extensive design experience. It has also proven valuable to have a mix of short-term (one semester to one year) and long-term (multi-year) projects, in that the short-term projects build confidence and help establish the relationship between the student and the community partner.

- *Availability of appropriate students and mentors* - EPICS works very hard to attract a broad base of students but there are projects that require specific expertise. We may need to limit the number of projects that require specific expertise depending on the availability of students with that expertise as well as the availability of qualified faculty, staff or community advisors for the teams
- *Funding* - No costs are required from the partners for typical development of EPICS projects. For large projects or projects that may need to be replicated in large numbers, outside funding may be required with the expectation that EPICS would work with the community partner to secure this funding.
- *Project Partner Commitment* - a crucial element of the program has been the commitment of individuals in the partner organizations to work with the students.

**Expectations of our partners include:**

- Meeting with the students three times each semester
- Responding via email or phone every one or two weeks
- Agreement to assume the majority of liability for projects after completed and delivered
- Agreement to participate in the maintenance and service of delivered project
- Willingness to work with the student teams to identify projects, specify requirements, and provide ongoing critical feedback

**Example project foci include, but are not limited to** (see <https://ess.unm.edu/programs/current-students/research-programs/epics-unm/project-opportunities.html> and <https://ess.unm.edu/programs/current-students/research-programs/epics-unm/past-projects.html> for examples with EPICS @ UNM or <https://engineering.purdue.edu/EPICS/teams> for more examples from EPICS Purdue):

- Conflict resolution
- Sustainability
- Preservation of cultural identities
- Equality
- Accessibility services

*Interested? Complete the [interest form](#) on our [program website](#).*