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## **Democratizing awareness and access to nuclear engineering career opportunities in the Southwest**

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**Program:** Fiscal Year 2024  
University Reactor Sharing  
and Outreach

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### **ABSTRACT:**

The Nuclear Engineering Department at the University of New Mexico (UNM) is one of the cornerstone nuclear engineering programs in the Mountain West, helping to serve the workforce development needs of multiple nuclear science and engineering facilities. The overarching goal of this proposal is to improve and democratize public awareness, educational opportunities, and understanding of nuclear science, engineering, and technology in the Southwest, particularly among underrepresented and Disadvantaged Communities (DAC). This goal will be accomplished through the following specific objectives:

1. Improving nuclear science literacy among high school teachers from regional, tribal, and Title I high schools through a series of annual science teacher workshops.
2. Fostering a pipeline for students from regional, tribal, and Title I high schools towards obtaining nuclear engineering degrees, chiefly by cultivating traveling outreach and summer camp opportunities.
3. Enhancing the educational opportunities provided by the AGN-201M reactor at UNM by developing a Nuclear Reactor Operator training curriculum with distance-learning capabilities.

If successful, this work will promote public awareness of nuclear science, engineering, and technology in underrepresented and disadvantaged communities, and will facilitate a workforce development pipeline for students from these communities to pursue career opportunities in nuclear science and engineering.