

Proposal for Endowed Chairs Program

We support the establishment of a number of endowed chairs in collaboration with the State of New Mexico and the National Laboratories. Currently, we have Sandia-UNM chairs (2 current holders and an ongoing search for a third one). The intent of such chairs is to attract to UNM faculty of international stature who will build strong research programs and attract national funding, other researchers, students, and companies to the State of New Mexico. There are various models for such programs, but the University of Tennessee, and Oak Ridge national laboratories so-called Governor's chair program provides a successful model to follow.

UTK-ORNL Model: The Governor's Chair program, funded by the state of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), is designed to recruit top academic experts to expand and augment the unique collaboration that exists between the state's flagship university and the nation's largest multi-disciplinary laboratory.

The initiative was created to provide an opportunity for exceptionally accomplished researchers from around the world to enhance combined research efforts that position the laboratory-university partnership as a leader in the fields of biological science, computational science, advanced materials and neutron science. The state and ORNL have invested over \$20 million in designated funding to recruit and fund the positions, including resources to support new research programs.

The cost of one such chair is estimated as follows:

Start-up	\$1 Million
Salary	\$250,000-300,000/year

As a general rule, an endowment of \$1 Million will provide \$50,000 per year. The holders of such chairs are current or potential members of the National Academies and will greatly enhance the capabilities and competitiveness of UNM, NMSU, and NMIT. At a time of great uncertainty at the federal funding agencies, hiring such professors will greatly improve the competitiveness of the New Mexico research universities. Such professors should be considered a solid investment in the future our research universities and in the economic competitiveness of our State. A potential source of support of this program might be from the endowment fund that the State currently has (but had not funded for many years), which can be matched from private donations.