



Discovery & Impact Quarterly

Fall 2025

Behind every funded proposal, honored scholar, or breakthrough technology lies a system of support, guidance, and belief. That system is **Research & Innovation (R&I)**.

For this issue, we sharpen our focus on what drives impact: strong relationships, clear processes, and purposeful leadership. Across **R&I**, we've expanded pathways for early-career success, deepened faculty development, launched strategic partnerships, and reinforced the backbone of research through compliance post-award management, and fostering an entrepreneurial mindset.

The work of research is demanding. Our role is to ensure the environment around that work is honest, responsive, and built to last. Thank you for the trust you place in us. We look forward to what we'll build together next.

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Vision in Action

What We Build Matters

RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT Strategy That Starts with You

Strong research careers are built with intention, through planning, timely resources, and support from people who understand the path. At **R&I**, the Research Development (RD) team partners with faculty across disciplines to turn ideas into funded proposals and sustained programs.

Our approach rests on five strategic pillars:

Strategic Research Advancement

Guidance on internal funding, managing limited submission opportunities, and searching for funding opportunities.

Proposal Development

One-on-one consultations, coordinated reviews, and access to a resource library with templates that strengthen proposals. For projects exceeding \$1 million or highly competitive awards, we provide the structure to deliver a compelling narrative.

Professional Development

Programs like CAREER Club, Miner Power Hour, and Insights + Impact, plus coaching and workshops, sharpen communication, strategy, and competitiveness at every stage.

Honorific Awards

Support for nomination portfolios, from early-career recognition to lifetime honors, to elevate UTEP researchers on the national stage.

Communications

Bulletins, quarterly newsletters, and tailored materials that showcase the research enterprise. They do more than inform; they equip.

Research Development is ready to help shape your plan and connect you with the tools to advance.



Ready to begin?

Submit a **Notice of Intent**, or to request a consultation, contact researchdev@utep.edu.

Professional Development

Growing Expertise Together

Faculty need a system that builds momentum and sustains growth. R&I programs provide support across the career arc, from first submission to major resubmission.

Together, these programs form a coordinated system that helps UTEP researchers succeed in a competitive landscape, not just once, but across an entire career.



Career Club

A year-long program for tenure-track faculty preparing NSF CAREER and other early-career proposals. Sessions cover broader impacts, narrative framing, education plans, evaluation strategies, and review preparation.

Insights + Impact

Brings faculty together with experts who share strategies, tools, and practices to strengthen proposals. Topics range from an introduction to major funding agencies, navigating their priorities to alignment.

Miner Power Hour

Short, focused sessions on issues such as research ethics, community partnerships, and proposal budget design. Each provides actionable takeaways and opportunities to connect with peers.

STAR@UTEP

In partnership with NRMN-STAR consultants, this intensive series equips faculty to compete for NIH and NSF funding. Applications are highly competitive and open annually.

Register through [MineTracker](#), or contact researchdev@utep.edu to get started.

Internal Funding

Igniting Curiosity. Empowering Faculty. Transforming Communities.

Behind every breakthrough is a beginning. At **UTEP**, internal funding is more than a budget line; it's an investment in people, ideas, and momentum. Through seed grants, travel support, and proposal readiness initiatives, **R&I** helps faculty move from exploration to execution, and from promising concepts to externally funded success.

University Research Initiative (URI)

Supports bold, community-driven projects that align with UTEP's mission of access and impact. Awards up to \$5,000 to help launch work that addresses regional needs, underrepresented narratives, or disciplinary gaps.

Next cycle: October 2025

Pilot Grant Program (PGP)

Provides up to \$20,000 for pilot data, hypothesis testing, or building collaborative models. PGP is UTEP's most substantial internal mechanism and is ideal for interdisciplinary research, innovation, or refining resubmissions.

Next cycle: December 2025

Faculty Travel Incentive Program (FTIP)

Funds up to \$1,500 to support travel that advances external funding; conferences, meetings with program officers, or strategic workshops.

Cycles: Mid-September 2025 (for travel in Spring 2026), Mid-January 2026 (for travel in Summer 2026), April 2026 (for travel in Fall 2026)

College Seed Grant Partnerships

Co-designed with colleges to meet disciplinary needs.

- College of Business: Seed Funding for Grant Submissions, up to \$6,000, with expert proposal feedback. *Next cycle: Fall 2025*
- College of Liberal Arts: Career Enhancement Award, up to \$5,000, supporting external proposals in arts, humanities, and social sciences. *Next cycle: Spring 2026*

Internal funding is not an endpoint. It's a catalyst. Each award is a statement of confidence in faculty potential, planting seeds that grow into long-term impact.

Find opportunities and apply through [InfoReady](#).



Government Relations

Spotlight on Strategic Research Partnerships

R&I is committed to forwarding **UTEP's** partnerships, strengthening ties with federal agencies and national labs. These visits are opportunities to shape joint agendas, deepen institutional relations, and position faculty for meaningful collaboration.

NASA Partnership Recognition

NASA's White Sands Test Facility and innovation partners at Q Station recognized the W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation for its contributions to the Commercial Crew Program Flight Test Investigation. The recognition, presented to Dean of Engineering Dr. Kenith Meissner, also opened new conversations around future collaborations.

Modeling, Simulation, and Aerospace Innovation

Dr. Grace Bochenek, Director of the University of Central Florida's School of Modeling, Simulation, and Training, visited **UTEP** to explore alignment in aerospace and defense research. Her tour of the Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace Center underscored shared priorities in applied research pipelines.

UTEP-PNNL Life Sciences Ideation Workshop

A two-day workshop, co-hosted by Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), brought **UTEP** faculty together with national experts to chart a course for collaboration in health, biosecurity, and biotechnology. The session was designed to generate joint proposals that meet pressing national needs.

These strategic engagements help **UTEP** researchers shape national conversations and open doors to large-scale, interdisciplinary opportunities.



To explore federal or national lab partnerships, contact researchrelations@utep.edu.

Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP)

Post-Award - Who We Are

The Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) manages the full lifecycle of sponsored research at **UTEP**. While the office also supports pre-award, this issue highlights the post-award teams that sustain research once funding is secured.

Post-Award Services

This unit ensures every award is managed responsibly from day one, assigning a dedicated Research Administrator, who serves as the primary point of contact for the faculty member. Services include account setup, budget verification, expenditure review, financial reporting, and project closeout. The team supports requests such as no-cost extensions and re-budgeting, while offering onboarding and training for new investigators to navigate systems like PeopleSoft, Student Notice of Award (SNOA), and Cost Transfer Forms.

Contracts & Agreements

Collaborations thrive when expectations are clear. This team drafts, reviews, and negotiates a wide range of agreements, including Sponsored Research Agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, Non-disclosure Agreements, Material Transfer Agreements, Data Use Agreements, and revenue-

generating research contracts. Their work ensures **UTEP's** interests are protected while enabling collaboration to proceed efficiently. Using DocuSign CLM, they streamline routing, track status, and align agreement execution with proposal and award timelines.

Subawards & Subcontract Services

Large-scale projects often involve partner institutions. This team develops, issues, and monitors subrecipient agreements to ensure compliance and accountability. Their work includes drafting agreements, ensuring that sponsor requirements are appropriately implemented, monitoring progress and risk, reviewing invoices, and managing modifications and closeouts. Faculty benefit from timely execution and assurance that subrecipients are meeting obligations.

Leadership

Post-Award operations are guided by a dedicated leadership team:

- Raul Chavez, Post-Award Manager
- Elizabeth Quezada-Lung, Assistant Director of Contracts & Agreements
- Belinda Gonzalez, Subcontracts Manager.

Together with OSP Director Cory Brown, they oversee a structure that supports active sponsored projects with integrity, responsiveness, and care.

Meet the full OSP team and find the right contact for your award at the [Office of Sponsored Projects](#).

Grant Management Accounting

Strengthening Fiscal Stewardship

Beginning **September 1, 2025 (FY26)**, the Grant Management Accounting (GMA) Support Center will introduce enhanced review processes for all grant-related expenses. These changes strengthen compliance, transparency, and accountability in research administration.

Why it matters

Responsible stewardship protects **UTEP's** credibility as a trusted research partner ensuring every grant dollar aligns with federal, state, and institutional standards.

What's changing?

Inter-Departmental Transfers (IDTs)

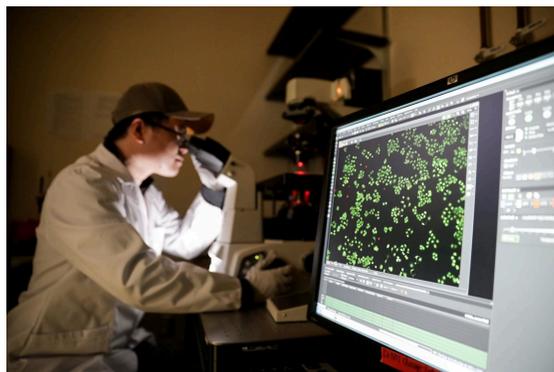
- Processed separately for grants and cost centers
- All IDTs reviewed for sponsor compliance

Purchase Requisitions (PRs)

- All grant-related PRs routed to the Support Center
- Equipment purchases in the final 45 days require justification
- Late-stage purchases must clearly benefit grant objectives

Student Payments

- Financial Aid reviews all payments processed through SNOAs
- Non-PO vouchers for **UTEP** student aid no longer accepted



What to do now?

Plan, especially for end-of-grant spending. Coordinate early with your assigned research accountant to avoid delays.

For questions and assistance, contact cgsc@utep.edu.

Research Compliance & Regulatory Assurances

Protecting Integrity. Enabling Discovery.

Bringing Compliance into the 21st Century

Selecting the right research administration system is more than an operational decision. It's an investment in efficiency, consistency, and trust. **UTEP** has partnered with Key Solutions® to move from paper-based processes to fully electronic research compliance and animal resource management.

This transition streamlines the process of submitting, reviewing, and approving protocols, whether for animal research, human subjects, or biosafety. Researchers can now submit protocols online at any time, track progress in real time, and collaborate easily with reviewers. The system also enhances accuracy in areas such as cage barcoding, per diem billing, and census reporting.

The result is simple: less paperwork, more clarity, and stronger compliance. By modernizing these systems, we reduce administrative burden and give faculty more time to focus on what matters most, advancing research that improves lives.



International Travel and Export Control

Compliance is not about limiting opportunity. It's about ensuring that when **UTEP** faculty say yes to global engagement, they are protected; legally, professionally, and institutionally.

Beginning October 1, 2025, all sponsored international travel requests submitted through **UTEP's** internal systems will automatically notify the Export Control Office. This review ensures compliance with federal regulations governing the export of sensitive technologies, data, equipment, and software.

Key requirements for faculty:

- Export Control Certification is required for all sponsored international travel, regardless of destination or funding source.
- Authorization to Remove Equipment Off Campus must be submitted if traveling with university-owned equipment, research data, software, or technology.
- Electronic submission only, scans or images are not accepted.
- Submit at least 10 business days before departure.
- Carry approved forms during travel for transit and audit readiness.

These safeguards protect both individual faculty and the institution from violations of U.S. law. The Export Control Office is here to support. Early communication makes the process smoother.

For questions and assistance, contact exportcontrol@utep.edu.

Federal Regulations Updates

Stay informed and ensure your research projects stay on track by regularly checking this resource for the latest information and strategic advice on navigating federal funding landscapes.

Click the button below for updates, guidance, and communications on federal funding.

[Federal Research Updates](#)

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Would you like to share your research or event with us?
Contact Research Development at researchdev@utep.edu.



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