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Monday, August 30, 2010

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New Mexico EPSCoR Awarded Grant of \$1.17 Million for Rural Cyberinfrastructure

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$1,176,470 grant to the University of New Mexico for the New Mexico Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NM EPSCoR) through the Research Infrastructure Improvement Inter-Campus and Intra-Campus Cyber Connectivity (RII C2) program. This RII C2 award to New Mexico will enable high-speed connections to the state's regional universities and tribal and community colleges.

The award, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and announced August 20th, will enable Northern New Mexico College, (NNMC), Western New Mexico University (WNMU), and Navajo Technical College (NTC) to enhance education and research through improved bandwidth and cyber connectivity.

Through this program, WNMU will upgrade the Silver City campus local area network, increasing speed and reliability across the network. NNMC will expand broadband access on campus, upgrade campus network switches and routers, and provide new campus-wide wireless service. NTC will expand its Internet service to the Hogan (ITTH) and Diné Grid wireless transmission network by connecting to the southern portion of its service area and to the central education facility for Zuni Pueblo. In addition, the C2 award supports educational activities that make use of the state's Supercomputer Gateways at each institution.

These institutions were chosen to participate in the NM EPSCoR RII C2 based on a prioritized assessment of institutional needs, their readiness to expend funds quickly and efficiently, and the degree to which the institution would benefit from cyberinfrastructure enhancements.

This award builds on the five-year EPSCoR RII Track 1 award, which supports climate research and education, cyberinfrastructure-enabled collaboration, and public outreach activities as well as the Tri-State Consortium Track 2 award, which supports cyberinfrastructure activities that enhance integration of climate research with education.

Dr. William K. Mitchner is the principal investigator and director of New Mexico EPSCoR. For more information on EPSCoR, please visit www.nmepscor.org and www.nsf.gov.