

## **Executive Summary:**

The University of New Mexico (UNM) is requesting NRC funds to offer fellowships to two Masters and two PhD students per year for 4 years. This fellowship program will help us attract the best and the brightest to pursue graduate studies in nuclear engineering at UNM and work on cutting edge research topics with our faculty in NE. Recognizing the importance of such fellowship program, the Department of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering will commit matching funds of a total sum of \$125,693. MS students selected for the fellowship will complete the requirements for the degree, conduct their thesis research under the direct supervision of an NE faculty, and graduate within 2 years. The PhD students selected for the fellowship would be expected to complete the requirements for the degree, graduate within 4 years, and conduct their dissertation research under direct supervision of NE faculty. The fellowship will cover tuition and health insurance and up to 50% of the stipend. The remaining portion of the stipend will be provided from existing research grants and funds of the supervising NE faculty. The recipients of the US NRC fellowships will be required to maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher during the course of their studies at UNM. They will be encouraged to work with their faculty advisors to prepare technical papers based on their thesis and dissertation research, present results at professional conferences and submit papers for consideration for publication in peer reviewed journals. The selection and monitoring of the fellowship program at UNM will be conducted by a committee created for that purpose. It will be chaired and co-chaired by the PI and Co-PI, and comprised of the thesis and dissertations faculty advisors, the Nuclear Engineering faculty advisor, and the department staff member in charge of student admission and recruitment. The fellowship program committee will track the academic progress of the recipients, examine their compliance with the study schedule, assess their progress for meeting the expectations of the fellowship and disburse the fellowship funds monthly in equal amounts. The goal is to fund 4 Masters and 2 PhD students by the completion of the 4-year duration of the NRC Fellowship program. We will offer two fellowships in fall 2009, two in spring 2010 and the remaining four fellowships in fall 2010.