



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST
TRANSFORMATION
NETWORK

Request for Applications – Master’s or Doctoral UNM student

Research Assistant Position Fall 2024 – Summer 2025

Project: Intermountain West Transformation Network:

Indigenous Engagement & Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

Application Deadline: April 15, 2024, for best consideration

The Transformation Network (TN), a National Science Foundation grant, is seeking a graduate research assistant to support a project on Indigenous community-engaged research for regional sustainability and climate resilience. Information on the TN can be found here: <https://transformimw.unm.edu/>

This graduate research assistant will work directly with Dr. Sharon Hausam, Dr. Lani Tsinnajinnie and the TN leadership team and will be supported by the UNM Transformation Network management and administration team at the University of New Mexico. The research assistantship includes a monthly stipend, tuition, and health insurance.

This project focuses on New Mexico’s twenty-four federally recognized tribes.

The scope of work for the TN Indigenous Engagement and DEIJ (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice) project includes three linked efforts focusing on Indigenous community-engaged research for regional sustainability and climate resilience:

- 1) Indigenous community information needs
- 2) Understanding of research with Indigenous peoples
- 3) Research examples and tools

Objectives associated with the first effort include:

1) understanding Indigenous community information needs, especially those related to regional sustainability and climate resilience, and how they might be addressed through community-engaged and/or co-produced research or other approaches

2) establishing a foundation for Indigenous community-engaged research by establishing an Advisory Group that may serve as a community of practice in New Mexico.

The objective for the second effort is to improve researcher understanding of appropriate research methodologies with Indigenous communities, to advance ethical research that meets Indigenous community needs, especially research related to regional sustainability and climate resilience. The objective for the third effort is to develop tools to support ethical research with Indigenous communities that meets Indigenous community needs, especially research related to regional sustainability and climate resilience.

Intermountain West Transformation Network

National Science Foundation Grant # 2115169

www.transformimw.unm.edu | transformimw@unm.edu



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This graduate student will assist in gathering, organizing, compiling, and summarizing relevant resources and literature around guidance and best practice examples of research with Indigenous communities; support focus groups and interviews; support the coordination and administration of the Advisory Group as needed; assist with note taking, transcription, and analysis of information; assist with creation of materials to disseminate information from these efforts; support a gap analysis; and other tasks as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications include:

- Active enrollment in a UNM graduate program
- Excellent writing and communication skills
- A commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

The ideal candidates will have experience with community-based participatory research or community-focused engagement approaches, working with New Mexico Tribal communities, an understanding of water and land resource issues in the Southwest, experience with sustainability and regional resilience research, an ability to build trust and rapport with community partners, excellent attention to detail, and the ability to work both independently and as part of a larger research team.

Applicants from underserved communities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Interested students should send a current CV and letter of interest to the Transformation Network Senior Program Manager, Lee Ann Ratzlaff at lratzlaff@unm.edu. Your cover letter should explain why you are interested and what you hope to gain from the position, highlight your qualifications, and provide three references with contact information.

For best consideration, please submit **your materials by April 15th**.