

# Grand Challenges

## SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES

### Undergraduate Research Communication Scholarship

#### Calling all undergraduates!!

The Sustainable Water Resources Grand Challenge (GC) at University of New Mexico is sponsoring their first annual undergraduate research communication scholarship. The goal of the Water GC Scholarship is to enable undergraduate students to participate in interdisciplinary research that makes a meaningful impact on guiding New Mexico towards water sustainability.

Public communication is integral to UNM's mission of creating, applying and disseminating new knowledge that advances our understanding of the world, its people and cultures. The Grand Challenge is sponsoring 10 undergraduate students to develop a communications project related to New Mexico's water resources.

The research the project is based on may be from *any discipline*. Communication projects may include and are not limited to art, videos, music, websites, podcasts, and story maps. Students do not need to be active water researchers to participate. We are also looking for communications, arts, and humanities students to help communicate the importance of water research to the public.

Water GC communications projects will be completed over the course of the Spring 2022 semester. Students will present their projects at the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference (UROC) in April 2022. Students will receive a \$1000 stipend.

#### Instructions to apply:

##### Students may choose between 2 tracks:

- **Track 1:** Student interested in doing a water research communication project and seeking a faculty mentor to partner with. No previous research experience necessary! Students from *all disciplines* (science, math, engineering, humanities, arts, etc.) are encouraged to apply.
- **Track 2:** Student already working on water-related research and wanting to develop a communication project to complement their existing work.

##### Application instructions:

In 300 words or less, please:

- Indicate your interest in either track 1 or track 2.
  - If track 1: Select a faculty member from [this list](https://grandchallenges.unm.edu/three-grand-challenges/sustainable-water-resources/researchers.html). Describe something about their research that interests you and why.
    - Alternatively, you may nominate a faculty member that is not on the list that you are aware of by other means. Please read faculty profiles to accomplish this task. One resource is: <https://grandchallenges.unm.edu/three-grand-challenges/sustainable-water-resources/researchers.html>. Note that we cannot guarantee that the

faculty member is available. *Please indicate one faculty member on [the list](#) as a backup option.*

- If track 2: Describe your research and how it relates to water sustainability.
  - Have your current faculty advisor submit a short letter of support [here](#).
- Describe what type of communication project you are interested in creating.
  - You may modify this idea in the future.
  - Feel free to link to or include an example of your idea if helpful, e.g., news articles about research, a series of social media posts, a podcast, an art piece, etc.
- Describe what interests you about New Mexico's water resources and water sustainability.

**Application link: <https://tinyurl.com/d72hh3p4>**

Deadline to submit materials is **November 24, 2021.**

Please contact Sydney Donohue, Sustainable Water Resources GC Outreach Coordinator at [sdonohue@unm.edu](mailto:sdonohue@unm.edu) if you have any questions.

### **About the Sustainable Water Resources Grand Challenge:**

One of the greatest challenges we face in New Mexico is the simultaneous decrease in usable water supply and increase in water demand. Water policies that privilege politically and financially powerful groups force marginalized New Mexicans to bear a disproportionate amount of the hardship that stems from this scarcity. Climate change is predicted to worsen our already water-limited state and force changes in the ecological and hydrological processes our people and ecosystems depend on.

New Mexico is on an unsustainable path that could wreak havoc on the state's natural resources, cultures, and economies if the diverging trends of water supply and demand are not reconciled. The Sustainable Water Resources Grand Challenge aims to harness expertise and resources at UNM to tackle water resources and the sustainability of New Mexico's economy, environment, and unique social fabric.

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