

**SOUTHWEST HEALTH EQUITY RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE (SHERC)
CALL FOR POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM (PSP) PROPOSALS**

For the 2018 Funding Cycle

Proposal Deadline: Friday, January 12, 2018

[The Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative](#) (SHERC) is a new, five-year NIH-funded cooperative agreement focused on increasing the health research capacity at NAU through basic biomedical, clinical, and behavioral research to address health disparities among diverse populations of the Southwestern United States (NIH #U54MD012388). SHERC is funded through the Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), and is administered by the NAU Center for Health Equity Research. The most recent guidelines for this Partnership are published in RFA-MD-17-003, and can be viewed through the [NIH website](#).

The primary goals of SHERC are to (1) enhance institutional research capacity at NAU within the areas of basic biomedical, behavioral, and/or clinical research; (2) enable all levels of investigators to become more successful in obtaining competitive extramural support, especially from NIH, particularly on diseases, public health conditions, and access to care issues that disproportionately impact minority and other health disparity populations; (3) foster environments conducive to career enhancement with a special emphasis on development of new and early career investigators; (4) enhance the quality of all scientific inquiry and promote research on minority health and health disparities; and (5) establish sustainable relationships with community-based organizations that will partner with NAU.

SHERC welcomes applications for the **Postdoctoral Scholars Program (PSP)**. We seek to support and mentor a cohort of postdoctoral scholars at NAU who will conduct health equity-related research in the basic biomedical, behavioral, and clinical sciences. Research collaborations with community-based organizations are encouraged.

Funding:

This program will provide selected NAU faculty mentors with funds to hire a postdoctoral scholar, including two years of salary support, and contributions to advertising, interview travel, and moving costs.

Salary levels will be up to the amounts allowed for NIH postdoctoral stipends, and based on years of experience (**Table I**, see [NIH NOT-OD-17-003](#)). Salaries may be augmented with non-federal funds. Up to \$1,500 will also be provided for advertising and recruiting-related travel, plus reimbursements for moving expenses not to exceed 5% of the annual salary. No funding is available for immigration costs.

Years of Experience	Stipend
0	\$47,484
1	\$47,844
2	\$48,216
3	\$50,316

Eligibility:

Faculty Mentor Eligibility: Faculty members eligible to serve as mentors for postdoctoral scholars will be tenured or tenure-eligible faculty, or non tenure-track research faculty who are both (1) NAU regular, benefit eligible, employees, and (2) eligible to serve as Principal Investigators/Project Directors on extramural grants. Faculty mentors will be required to have at least 30% release time for research and scholarship defined in their Departmental Statement of Expectations (SOE), and will be on campus (i.e., not off-campus or on sabbatical) during the entire postdoctoral mentoring period. A faculty mentor will be limited to serving as the primary

mentor for only one postdoctoral scholar in a given year; however, collaborative projects and mentoring teams are encouraged. For the purpose of expanding the number of NAU faculty members conducting health equity-related research, preference will be given to faculty members who are not receiving SHERC research project or pilot project funds.

Postdoctoral Scholar Eligibility: Postdoctoral scholars will be expected to expand NAU's current research and research training capacity in biomedical, behavioral, or clinical health equity research. Postdoctoral scholars will be required to have earned a PhD or equivalent research doctorate by the time of appointment (meaning their degrees have been formally posted at their doctoral institutions), must have earned their doctoral degree within 4 years of the start date for their appointments, and must be able to begin employment at NAU on or before **August 31, 2018**. Postdoctoral scholars are not required to be U.S. Citizens; however, the faculty mentor will be responsible for all immigration fees. For the purpose of bringing new expertise to the University, preference will be given to candidates who have not received their bachelors or graduate degrees from NAU and are not currently employed at NAU.

Proposal Guidelines:

Application Components

1. Face Page (1 page limit).
2. Proposal Format: 8.5" x 11" pages, single-spaced; 1-inch margins on all sides; font 11-point Arial.
3. Relevance to SHERC goals (1 page limit).
4. Narrative (6 page limit).
 - a. Research Plan: Describe the research project(s) to which the postdoctoral scholar will devote his/her time; describe his/her role on the project; what is the significance/scientific merit of the work; what makes it original or innovative? How does it integrate with work being done by others at NAU? Literature references may be provided, but will not count toward the page limit.
 - b. Required Skillset: Describe the need for a postdoctoral scholar; the specific skills, knowledge or experience required and how this postdoctoral scholar will enhance the PI's (and Co-Investigator(s), if applicable) research program(s); describe how the addition of this postdoctoral scholar will enhance NAU's capacity to conduct cutting-edge health equity research.
 - c. Mentoring Plan: Describe the mentoring that will be provided for the postdoctoral scholar; how will the scholar's mentoring plan be developed and by whom? Describe specific activities that will be provided. How will progress be monitored and assessed? Who will participate in the mentoring of the postdoctoral scholar?
 - d. Research Environment: Discuss how many undergraduates, graduates, and postdoctoral scholars are currently in the PI's research group, and describe the PI's experience mentoring postdocs.
5. NIH-Formatted Biographical Sketches for the PI and any relevant co-PIs (5 page limit each).
6. Funding: List all current, pending and planned extramural support for the faculty PI. Current support should include project dates and direct costs, PI role, and percent effort. Specifically identify current internal and external support for the research project that will be carried out by the postdoctoral scholar (described in the Narrative). For planned support, include information about specific sponsors and programs to which grant proposals may be submitted, and the timeline for submitting proposals.

Submission Information:

Documents should be combined into a single PDF file and submitted electronically by **5:00 pm on Friday, January 12, 2018**. Applications should be submitted to Suzie Martinez (Suzie.Martinez@nau.edu). Late proposals will not be reviewed.

Evaluation Criteria:

Priority will be given to the most scientifically meritorious proposals that advance the goals of SHERC, provide competitive training of the next generation of health equity researchers, and are deemed most likely to deliver outcomes that include peer-reviewed manuscripts and continued or future extramural support.

Projected Timeline:

PSP Proposal deadline: Friday, January 12, 2018

Notification of faculty awardees: on or before Friday, February 2, 2018

Job description (ePost submission) deadline: on or before Friday, February 16, 2018, with posting asap.

Latest date to complete /close job posting: Friday, March 30, 2018

Candidate pool report due: on or before Friday, April 6, 2018

Certification of pool and permission to conduct Skype interviews: on or before Friday, April 13, 2018

Latest date to complete Skype interviews: Friday, April 27, 2018

Certification of Skype interviews / Permission to conduct on-site interviews: on or before Friday, May 4, 2018

Recruiting report due (includes Request for Authorization to Hire): on or before Friday, May 25, 2018

Authorization to hire and offer letter template provided to PI: on or before Friday, June 1, 2018

Deadline for formal offers: Friday, June 15, 2018

Latest start-date for postdoctoral scholars: Friday, August 31, 2018

Expectations of PSP Participants:

Faculty members selected as mentors for PSP funding will be expected to carry-out searching and hiring activities in a timely manner and according to NAU Human Resources policies; to serve as active mentors to the postdoctoral scholars; to produce deliverables that include at least one co-authored peer-reviewed publication per year and at least one externally submitted grant proposal per year; to participate in seminars, periodic administrative meetings and faculty development activities provided by the Administrative Core; and to complete all progress reports required by NIMHD.

Postdoctoral scholars supported with SHERC funding will be expected to create and maintain Individual Development Plans (IDPs), to undergo training in the Responsible Conduct of Research, and to participate in SHERC administrative meetings, and career enhancement activities including but not limited to SHERC and other departmental seminars, grant and manuscript writing workshops, and scientific conferences.