

# Introduction

- UNEX Program Innovations:
  - New class of mission (total NASA cost < \$13M for this AO, trending toward \$5M in future AOs) allows University-class teams to carry out mission with minimal NASA oversight
  - Mission implementation options available to take every advantage of access to space:
    - Long Duration (> 1 week) Balloon flights allowed for first time
    - Shuttle-launched missions allowed
      - Free-flying shuttle-deployed payloads (e.g., Spartan) permitted as in SMEX
      - May propose to fly as secondary shuttle-attached payload for first time
    - May be secondary on a satellite or an ELV
  - Flexibility in allocation of funds amongst Launch services, Design/development, Ground data system, and MO&DA (not subject to individual caps as in SMEX)
  - Involvement of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's) and Other Minority Universities (OMU) participation strongly encouraged (first time for Explorer program)

- Involvement of HBCU's/OMU's included in AO Evaluation Criteria
- Possible capital investment funding contribution by Code E to HBCU/OMU