



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

August 20, 2014

Welcome (back) to UNM! For more than 3,500 new undergraduate and graduate students, more than 100 new faculty members, and many more staff, this is their first official week of the Fall 2014 semester. For others, it is a return to the familiar campus, roles, and challenges, but also to new opportunities. While we're all assuming our new or usual roles, I am reminded of the saying that "the biggest challenge for a university leader is not financial but rather to combine the interests of many into a coherent purpose of the whole." As we work in our diverse ways toward the common goal of teaching well, doing great research, and serving the university community, our city, and our state, I hope you will keep in touch with the Office of Academic Affairs.

Can you Measure Quality? UNM engaged in a self-study in the last year and a half to modify its budget process. After considering Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) we settled on the more appropriate Results Oriented Management (ROM). ROM is a budget process that will allocate new resources back to units according to improvement in some metrics. Such metrics may include easy-to-obtain numbers such as enrollment and graduation rates (as was adopted by the State of New Mexico in our formula funding), but also some metrics to measure the quality of a program. As expected, quality metrics have proved to be much more difficult to select. I have asked some faculty members to propose useful ways to measure quality and soon will be asking for feedback on a menu of such metrics. We need good information about the quality of our programs, faculty, and student learning. Potential examples may include h-factor (for those in scientific fields), assessment maturity and feedback, faculty awards of distinction, and long-term success of students. Note that many organizations are interested in measuring the "knowledge" acquired by college graduates. As an example, UNM participates in the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA-plus) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) [Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies](#) (PIAAC) exam rates adults in literacy, numeracy and problem solving.

Student Success Summit 2014: This year's summit takes place on Wednesday, Sept. 3 and includes a welcome by **US Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham**, opening remarks by **New Mexico Higher Education Department Secretary Jose Garcia**, and a keynote address by **Professor Betty Capaldi Phillips**, Provost Emerita at Arizona State University. The event brings together representatives from New Mexico's research universities — New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico State University, and The University of New Mexico — to look at undergraduate education at research institutions. The event is open to the public, and you can find more information and RSVP [here](#).

MOOC on! In May 2013, UNM joined a group of public universities to sign up with Coursera to offer and accept Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). The first UNM MOOC was offered by Associate Provost Greg Heileman, and had close to 50,000 students from more than 190 countries. The same course is being offered again and already has more than 50,000 enrolled students. Interestingly, more than 500 students are now taking the course under Coursera's signature track, which will generate around \$13,000 for UNM. In addition, I know of one student who has joined UNM this semester because he became aware of our programs because of that first MOOC course. In addition, on Aug. 18, Dr. Eliseo "Cheo" Torres, Vice President of Student Affairs at UNM, began teaching the MOOC course "Curanderismo: Traditional Medicine." There will be three or four more such offerings, before we pause to see how such courses might affect our enrollment and programs.

Resources: The team behind the new faculty orientation, led by Academic Leadership Fellow, Professor Yemane Asmerom, **Center for Teaching Excellence Director Aeron Haynie**, **CTE Program Coordinator Monica Peña**, and Web Administrator Akhil Gupta, assembled resources for our new faculty on the website <http://nfo.unm.edu/>. It turns out, however, that such resources are useful to many more and the site will soon become a portal for all of our

faculty members. Other sites that you may find useful are: <http://provost.unm.edu>, <http://provostcloud.unm.edu/>, and <http://news.unm.edu/>.

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