



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

August 19, 2015

Welcome (back) to UNM! For more than 7,000 new undergraduate and graduate students, more than 50 faculty members, and many more staff, this is the first official week of the Fall 2015 semester. For others, it is a return to a familiar campus and familiar challenges, but also to new opportunities. While we're all assuming our new or usual roles, I am reminded that our biggest challenge is combining the interests of the many into the coherent purpose of the whole. Amid competing values and tasks, we seek a common purpose and rules of engagement that reinforce such a purpose.

The Value Proposition of Higher Education: If you pay attention to higher education these days, you will be bombarded by articles and discussions on the cost of college. To those who are footing the bill (taxpayers, parents and students) this is a very real concern but one that is shrouded in complexity and emotions. But any serious discussion on the subject must start by considering the *value* (economical as well as non-economical) of a college education and degree, not simply the cost in dollars. A good place to start learning about value is [this recent article](#) that captured a panel discussion on the topic.

Another good source of information is [the recent study](#), from the Center on Education and the Workforce, at Georgetown University, verifying that the good jobs are back: "44% of the 6.6 million jobs created from 2010 to 2014 were good jobs—and 97% of them went to college graduates."

Resources & Information: Many have been busy during the summer to design and provide new services for our students and faculty members. We're facing many new reporting and compliance requirements, and UNM is working to offer the information and resources to facilitate the work of our faculty and staff, and thus the success of our students. In that spirit, here are a few sites that have been launched or updated during our summer break. [UNM News](#) provides up-to-date information about breaking news and is an outlet for faculty accomplishments. This [site](#) is where you find much of the information about our enrollment, student success metrics, and other data. The office of [Faculty Affairs and Services](#) provides the most accurate and up-to-date resources to our faculty members, as well as links to many important services and sites, such as the [Office of Vice President for Research](#), the [faculty handbook](#), and the [Human Resources](#) office. Other sites of interest are those of [faculty governance](#), [Institutional Analytics](#), [degree mapping](#), and [Student Affairs](#).

Our own graduates have also created some great resources. An example is a new contacts-discovery service developed by Andy Lim, a UNM grad and founder of [LAVU](#), a local high-tech company. Initially, the service [Addmi](#) will be offered exclusively to users with "unm.edu" addresses. Addmi will retain no personal information, other than registration information. Addmi will consider feedback from participants on how their service is being used in order to make it more user-friendly and to correct mistakes that may appear prior to launching the service to the public. To subscribe to this free service, visit <https://www.addmi.com/>.

New Faces on Campus: The Global Education Office ([GEO](#)) has a new director. Her name is Nicole Tami, and she is a Lobo who is coming home after earning her graduate degrees and working at the University of Illinois. Another addition to UNM is the Vice President of Research, Gabriel Lopez, a native New Mexican who was a professor of Chemical Engineering at UNM prior to his joining Duke University and founding the NSF Research Triangle Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (RT-MRSEC). Dr. Lopez will be on campus part-time this Fall before joining us full-time in January.

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Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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