Dear Colleagues,

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching offers an elective classification for Community Engagement that recognizes an institution’s commitment to engagement through teaching, research, service, and partnerships. The UNM Office of Academic Affairs seeks to document any and all community engagement efforts at UNM. In order to apply for this prestigious designation, we must document and present evidence of the university’s involvement and engagement with community at all levels. For more information about the Carnegie classification, please click HERE.

Our team is preparing to collect an immense amount of data from all over the university, identifying community engagement programs and practices. Attached you will find two surveys designed to solicit information from faculty, department chairs, chancellors, deans, and program directors, regarding community engaged teaching, research, and service. If you believe that your teaching, research, or program embodies this commitment to community, please describe your endeavors in the attached surveys. We need your help to document the diversity of approaches to community engagement at UNM, and to help us support and foreground the University of New Mexico’s commitment to promoting and sustaining the health, equality, social justice, and economic development that enhances the quality of life for all New Mexicans.

Whether you offer courses that include a service-learning or community-based research component, or whether you run an outreach program that benefits community members, or whether you or your college or school has formal research partnerships with larger organizations, we want to hear your story! If you are not sure whether an activity counts, please go ahead and include. We want to cast the widest possible net.

We recognize that documenting these activities can be time consuming and challenging. Therefore, we will provide you with various options for reporting this information. Members of our team are on hand to assist you in any capacity and at any point during this process. Our goal is not to rank or rate these initiatives. Rather we seek to identify, acknowledge, and celebrate exemplary programs. We will use this information to produce an inclusive and balanced report that captures the importance of your work and tells a captivating story about UNM’s engagement with our community.

The University of New Mexico has broad and deep connections to the people and communities of this state. Our students, faculty, staff and leadership do critical work far beyond the boundaries of our campus. The partnerships we build with individuals and organizations bring great benefits to the people who live in New Mexico and beyond. UNM’s engagement with the community, as both a very-high research and Hispanic-serving institution, provides opportunities for students to apply what they learn. Our collaborations strengthen organizations that address our State’s most pressing social issues, support economic growth, and deepen our commitment as a public university.
I am truly excited about this initiative. Just the process of documenting our efforts for the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification will shape UNM going forward, and have long-term impact on our students, our faculty, our institution and our community.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or Monica Kowal, Ph.D. (kowal1@unm.edu), who is guiding the data collection process. Thanks again for your time and effort, for all you have done and are doing to connect UNM with the wider community. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Virginia Scharff
Associate Provost for Faculty Development