



The Weekly Communiqué

February 28, 2019

UNM's reaccreditation visit from the Higher Learning Commission. The New Mexico Legislature at full throttle. Five new members of the Board of Regents. Budget planning toward the Budget Summit on April 5. Search processes for three executive leaders on campus. Oh: and all the teaching, research, mentoring, community engagement, patient and client care, service, and international engagement that goes on day in and day out at UNM. We all might feel a tad busy these days! Hang in, Spring Break coming up.

HLC accreditation visit: Don't miss the open forums

One and all faculty, staff, and students interested in witnessing to all we do and planning how to improve are encouraged to attend the open forums **this Monday and Tuesday** with the reaccreditation visiting team from the Higher Learning Commission:

- March 4, 10:45-12 p.m., Anderson School of Management, MCM 2110 (Criteria 3-4: [Teaching & Learning](#))
- March 4, 2-3 p.m., SUB Ballroom A (Criteria 1-2: [Mission & Integrity](#)) - please note, this forum has been relocated to SUB Ballroom A.
- March 5, 10-11 a.m., Domenici Center, Room 2720 (Criterion 5: [Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness](#))

The events will also be accessible via Zoom so that anyone can join.

What UNM does in students' lives

Helps for all of us to stay rooted in the transformative impact the UNM experience makes in students' lives. Esteban Abeyta is a great case study of all that we do—please take a moment to read about [his journey](#).

UNM budget planning

The [Budget Leadership Team](#)—a highly participative and open forum in which students, staff, faculty, and administrative leaders together consider a broad array of factors that shape UNM's fiscal situation, and make the initial proposal for next year's budget—has been [meeting regularly](#). Their recommendations for how to face UNM's continuing difficult fiscal situation while continuing to improve the UNM experience will go to President Stokes at the end of February.

New Regents at UNM—and a new regent selection process this time around

UNM's [five new Regents](#) will have their first regular meeting on March 11. Academic Affairs welcomes Regents Sandra Begay, Doug Brown, Melissa Henry, Kim Sanchez Rael, and Rob Schwartz to the Board of Regents alongside continuing Regents Rob Doughty and Marron Lee. Profound thanks to all for their willingness to serve the university and the common good of all New Mexicans. The new regents were selected via a new vetting process described [here](#) in a piece co-authored by the chair of the nomination committee for UNM, former regent Roberta Ramo.

Faculty unionization effort at UNM

A group of faculty members have requested an election to constitute a collective bargaining unit representing all tenure-track, adjunct, visiting, and research faculty on main campus and at the branches (but not at HSC). University leadership has been discussing the effort, what it might mean for

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UNM's academic mission, and how the university will proceed. As of this writing, those discussions are ongoing; we will share information publicly as appropriate. Meanwhile, we encourage discussions among the faculty regarding how you see this effort affecting our shared academic mission.

Arabic for your kids

The Arabic Program at the University of New Mexico has received a STARTALK Grant to offer an intensive Arabic program this Summer. The three-week program will enroll students in grades 6-12 and rising college freshmen. The course (including books, lunches, and extracurriculars) is completely free to students. More information can be found at our website: <http://fil.unm.edu/events/summer-programs.html>. Please direct questions to Dr. Emma Trentman, etrentman@unm.edu.

UNM IT needs to know about your technology experience

UNM Information Technologies conducts an annual survey to ensure that IT services are aligned with the needs of our faculty and students. The responses guide decisions in where and how to invest in technology services. This year, IT is partnering with the Educause Center for Analysis and Research to allow us to compare opinions expressed at UNM with those from other institutions. Participants are selected randomly. If you received an invitation to participate in this national survey concerning use of technology, please provide your responses prior to March 9. Participants who provide an e-mail and complete the survey will be entered in a random drawing for a \$100 or \$200 Amazon gift certificate. Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated!

UNM World Language Expo

UNM is the place to celebrate the diversity of world languages and cultures. This year's UNM World Language Expo is this Saturday, March 2 in and around Ortega Hall. 2019 marks the 20th anniversary of UNM's World Language Expo—and over 12,000 New Mexicans who have explored hundreds of different cultures/languages at the UNM event over the years. This event brings hundreds of area students and community members to campus, with workshops in over 30 different cultures. The State of New Mexico has declared March 8 as the UNM World Language Expo day and is honoring Dr. Marina Peters-Newell (UNM Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures) for creating this celebration of world languages and cultures. For more on the event see: <https://fil.unm.edu/events/world-language-expo-2019.html>

Opportunity at the Santa Fe Institute: Global Sustainability

Interested in creative solutions to our urban challenges? The Santa Fe Institute and the University of Chicago are sponsoring a [terrific opportunity](#) this summer, with applications due March 15 and open to postdoctoral fellows, graduate students, early-career scientists, policymakers, non-profit and business professionals.

Art on the UNM campus

The 'Fiestas Dancers' sculptures in front of Popejoy were recently [restored](#). Thanks to the UNM Art Museum and Silo Workshop for renewing work on Luis Jimenez' iconic piece (formally titled 'Fiesta Jarabe,' first installed on UNM's campus in 1996.



Life in New Mexico

Rahim al Haj is among our outstanding New Mexicans: One of the world's great *oud* players alive today—or perhaps ever—he was named National Heritage Fellowship Award in 2015 and has twice been nominated for Grammy Awards in traditional world music. Born in Baghdad, he fled the Saddam Hussein regime, and eventually arrived to the United States as a political refugee in 2000. He has lived in Albuquerque ever since and travels the world to perform. On a recent tour in the Midwest he was asked, “Of all your travels, where do you find your soul?” His answer: “In New Mexico.”

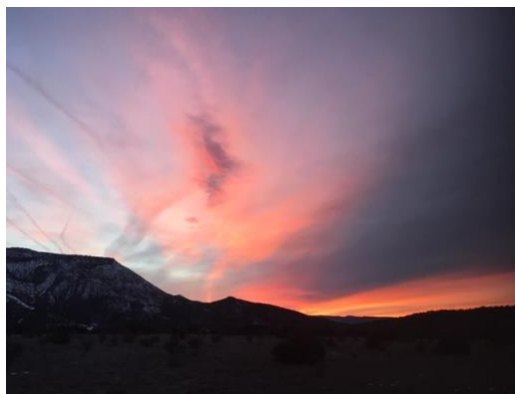


African-American History month

The Lady Lobo basketball team wore special jerseys for a recent game; guess who attended, happened to match the garb? (a gift from African American Student Services).



And a New Mexico sunset, which needs no comment



Have a great rest of the week! See you at HLC forums on Monday and Tuesday.

The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

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A PDF version of this weekly brief is available on the [Academic Affairs website](#). Your feedback and input are welcome at provost@unm.edu.