

Academic Dispatch

May 8, 2020



News and Updates from Academic Affairs

The last 56 days, since Friday, March 13, have been strange and strained. Our faculty and staff have moved amazingly quickly to new modes of interaction for both instruction and research, while simultaneously worrying about their own families and loved ones, and suddenly needing to provide schooling for their own children at home. Many Lobos, after years of hard work and growth, are approaching their graduation. But the normal celebrations have moved to YouTube and to websites, and our graduates are stepping into a world none of us could have imagined even 3 months ago. The economy is in a poor place, with 1 in 5 American workers filing for first-time unemployment benefits. Some of our new graduates are having a tough time finding that first post-graduation job. The state government budget is expected to be down by perhaps \$2 billion dollars next year, and that will hit UNM hard. It's easy to be pessimistic. But we also know that college graduates come through these tough times with more resilience than others, and that over the long run our Lobos will thrive, lead, and make New Mexico a better place.

UNM also has a central place in helping to build this better future and helping New Mexico grow beyond the challenge of the moment. We do this through educating both young New Mexicans and learners from elsewhere who can come to our state and contribute their energy and talents. We do this through

service and research, caring for patients, providing professional services, and creating the knowledge and processes that will build the economy of the future. And we do this through work in economic development, both by transferring UNM ideas from the lab to the world, and by supporting businesses with expertise and training.

In light of these purposes, it gives me great pleasure to announce the next dean of the Anderson School of Management, Dr. Mitzi Montoya. Dr. Montoya joins UNM as a Professor of Marketing, Information Systems, Information Assurance, and Operations. She comes to us from Washington State University, where she currently serves as professor in the Carlson School of Business. Dr. Montoya is an accomplished scholar, having over 11,000 citations to her published works. She is also an accomplished university administrator, having served as Assistant Dean at North Carolina State University, in Dean and Vice Provost roles at Arizona State University, as Dean of Business at Oregon State University, and briefly as Provost at Washington State. She has also led programs in Entrepreneurship and in Technology & Innovation. Dr. Montoya has a bachelor's degree in engineering science from Michigan State University, and a Doctorate in Business, also from Michigan State. We are excited to have Dr. Montoya joining us here at UNM.



Also looking to the future, I am happy to announce the launch of the search for UNM's next Vice President for Research. This is a critically important role for the future of UNM and our state. The VPR helps to shape the internal organization and infrastructure on which our faculty and students create new knowledge and works, and helps both discover and influence the external environment in which our mission of discovery occurs. The search advisory committee will be chaired by Prof. Barbara McCrady, and the full membership can be found on the [executive search website](#). We are assisted in this search by professional staff from Isaacson/Miller. We hope to have a new VPR start with us in January 2021.

As we continue to plan for the reintroduction of students into research, studio, and fabrication spaces, UNM is currently developing a set of protocols. This would happen in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the state's re-opening plan, and will require the development of appropriate social distancing systems, cleaning protocols, mask wearing, and other COVID Safe Practices as defined by the NM Department of Health. This work is being led by VPR Gabriel Lopez along with a committee of faculty and staff focused on resumption of research activity. Another team of faculty and staff have also undertaken a Fall Term

Charette to develop our ideas for how to resume instruction in a hybrid in-person and remote form in Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan. In all of this work, alignment with the state is a key strategy to promote the health and safety of all Lobos and of the broader community of New Mexico.

Finally, it is my pleasure to announce the winners of this year's "Outstanding Staff, Workgroup, and Kindness Awards." Each spring, the Provost Committee for Staff recognizes deserving recipients among the many excellent staff members who work at UNM. This year, the awardees are:

- **Outstanding Staff:** Sergio de la Cruz (School of Architecture and Planning), Christine Sraha (University Libraries), and Olivia Torres (Dean of Students)
- **Kindness:** Mariah Harrison (CELR/University College)
- **Outstanding Workgroup:** Executive & Professional Education Center (ASM)

You can find more information about the recipients and the awards on the [Provost Committee for Staff webpage](#).

James Paul Holloway

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Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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