

Academic Dispatch



Zimmerman Library. Photo Credit: Hyunju Blemel. University Communication and Marketing.

May 28, 2021

The UNM campus is beautiful this spring, and coming back to life. Not just with trees and ducks, but with our faculty, students, and staff. The easing of public health restrictions owing to vaccinations is warmly welcomed. About 60% of our faculty and staff, outside of the health sciences, report being fully vaccinated, and about 25% of our students similarly report. The incidence of COVID in our UNM community is very low. Let's keep that vaccination momentum going. We are looking forward to an exciting in-person fall term.

Dean of College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences

I am thrilled to welcome Professor Leo Lo to the University of New Mexico as the Dean of the College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, replacing Dean Rick Clement, who retired last year. Professor Lo comes to UNM from Pennsylvania State University, where he currently serves as Penn State University Libraries Associate Dean for Learning Undergraduate Services and Commonwealth Campuses. In this role Leo has oversight of over 300 faculty and staff spanning many areas of library operations, including oversight of the 20 Penn State Commonwealth Campus Libraries spread all over the state. Leo also

leads the strategic planning process of the Penn State University Libraries, supports the promotion and tenure process of the Penn State library faculty, and has been the lead on the library's COVID response.

Leo began work as a Multicultural Studies Librarian at Kansas State University in 2009, and represented the library to work closely with the Associate Provost for Diversity in increasing the university's diversity efforts. He also took on the position of Research and Development Librarian in the Office of Library Planning and Assessment. His next role was as Head of McLure Education Library at the University of Alabama, the state's flagship university. In 2016, Leo became Associate University Librarian at Old Dominion University (ODU), an urban university with a diverse student population, and a top 10 university in reducing inequality (according to Times Higher Education World University Rankings). At ODU Leo actively participated in the university's diversity efforts, and was the Secretary for the Asian Faculty Caucus.



Dean Leo Lo, College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences

Leo's scholarship focuses on the topics of Open Educational Resources and student understanding of textbook costs, as well as library leadership, developing a research culture among library faculty, and career development for librarians.

We welcome Leo to UNM, and sincerely thank Professor Mark Emmons, who has served as Interim Dean of CULLS since January, and Professor Fran Wilkinson, who served in the interim role from July to December of 2020.

Dean of Instruction at UNM-Los Alamos



Paul Allen, Dean of Instruction at UNM-Los Alamos

UNM-Los Alamos is excited to welcome Dr. Paul Allen as Dean of Instruction. Paul comes to UNM-LA from Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nevada, where he served as the Dean of Liberal Arts. For the past thirteen years, he has held administrative positions in Higher Education, first at Salt Lake Community College where he was Associate Dean of Humanities & Languages and Associate Dean of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and completed two stints as Interim Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at Truckee Meadows Community College in Nevada.

Paul received his BA in English from the University of Buffalo, before proceeding to Yale University where he obtained a Masters in Renaissance Studies/History and a PhD in European History with a focus on Imperial Spain. After receiving his PhD, he was visiting Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Utah for three years before leaving to join an academic publishing company, a move that exposed him to

many different academic disciplines. He returned to teaching in 2002 with a tenure-track position in Humanities at Salt Lake Community College where his efforts focused on expanding opportunities for a curriculum and pedagogy designed to engage a more ethnically diverse student population. He has published books on Spanish history and a textbook for Introduction to Humanities.

In the role of Dean of Instruction, Paul will serve as the campus' Chief Academic Officer and have overall responsibility for administration of the instructional programs and faculty at UNM-LA. The Dean also oversees the Library, Academic Support Center, Adult Basic Education, and Community Education activities.

Paul served in the 101st Airborne Division in the United States Army. His interests include biological evolution and evolutionary psychology, philosophy and comparative religion, and 19th-century American history, among others.

We welcome Paul to UNM-LA, and sincerely thank Dr. Irina Alvestad, who has served as Interim Dean of Instruction since October of 2020.

And, finally: Protect the Pack—Get the Vax.

James Paul Holloway

Professor of Nuclear Engineering

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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