

# Academic Dispatch



Food Pantry Community Service, UNM BA/MD Students. Photo Credit: Kip Malone

**June 23, 2021**

## **Basic Needs Funding – HEERF III is coming so update your financial aid information!**

There's money coming for students, so get those aid forms on file as you register for fall classes!

In August and September, UNM expects to deliver directly to students new funds to support basic needs, such as food, housing, course materials, health care, childcare, living expenses, etc., under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). These funds, provided through the U.S. Department of Education, will be the third tranche of grants that we have been able to deliver directly to students for their discretionary use in covering expenses driven by the global pandemic. The grant funds will be prioritized to students based on financial need, so students who are enrolled at UNM this fall should update their [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or [state financial aid documents](#), as these will be used to determine both eligibility and the amount of aid provided to each student. Filing a FAFSA for 2021 – 2022 is critical. While some of you may have already filed FAFSA or state aid forms, your situation may have changed owing to a job loss for you or a family member, or for other reasons that might have led to a loss of income, and you may request reconsideration of your financial aid eligibility by contacting the UNM Financial Aid Office. Live chat or appointments are available at <https://financialaid.unm.edu/>.

Students who are concerned about filing a FAFSA or believe they might not be eligible to file one, can use the UNM [State Aid Application](#) as an option; no information from this form is shared with the federal government and it comes directly to UNM.

Both undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at least half-time and with a financial aid application on file for 2021-22 will be considered for HEERF III student funds distribution – there is no separate application process. Pursuant to the federal statute

and Department of Education guidelines, all students that meet these criteria—regardless of citizenship or immigration status—will be considered.

Also make sure you have direct deposit set up with the UNM [Bursar's Office](#) as soon as possible, to ensure the quickest distribution. Otherwise, a paper check will be produced, which is much slower.

As you manage your finances, be sure to stay in touch with your advisors and with the UNM financial aid office, and take advantage of UNM's [Center for Financial Capability](#).

## New UNM-Taos Chancellor Named

I am happy to announce that Dr. Mary Gutierrez has accepted the role of Chancellor at UNM-Taos, effective August 1, 2021.

Dr. Gutierrez holds a Doctor of Education degree from San Francisco State University, and MA and BA degrees in English from Virginia Polytechnic University. She currently serves as Vice President of Instruction at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, California and as an adjunct faculty member in the Educational Leadership graduate program at San Francisco State University. She has previously served as Dean of Language Arts at Skyline College in California, as Associate Dean at Cascadia College in Bothell, Washington, as well as in various positions at the University of San Diego and Highline College, also in Washington. She has also taught at Tusculum College, Tennessee, and at St. Lawrence University in New York. Dr. Gutierrez has worked on early college and middle college programs, advocated for faculty and instructors in community college settings, worked to address the multidimensional diversity of faculty and staff and their preparation to work with a diverse student body, developed guided pathways programs for student success, and created placement systems that do not rely on ACT/SAT testing. At Diablo Valley, she secured external funding to develop Diamante Scholars, a high school-to-STEM pathway with a focus on Hispanic students, as well as developing a strategic enrollment grant focused on working adults. In addition to her appointment as Chancellor, Dr. Gutierrez will hold the title of Associate Professor of English, with tenure at UNM-Taos.



Dr. Mary Gutierrez, New Chancellor at UNM-Taos

Dr. Gutierrez is an inclusive educator, mentor, and community college leader with demonstrated experience addressing higher education's equity gaps in student outcomes. Her student-focused approach to her work came out in all of her interactions during the search process. Dr. Gutierrez is a native of Las Cruces, New Mexico, and we are excited to welcome her back to her home state and to the Lobos!

I owe a heartfelt thanks to Dr. Cindy Rooney, Chancellor of UNM-Los Alamos, for serving also as Interim Chancellor at UNM-Taos. Dr. Rooney will continue in the interim role until Dr. Gutierrez officially starts at Taos on August 1, 2021.

## PERC up UNM!

UNM is a place of discovery, the opportunity to intellectually grow in this environment is unparalleled, and the knowledge we create can be the foundation of humanity's future. Vice President for Research, Ellen Fisher, is pleased to announce a new internal funding opportunity to support the development of this environment of discovery: the Program for Enhancing Research Capacity (PERC) will support the acquisition of shared instrumentation or the enhancement of shared facilities that enable major advancement of discovery, creativity, and innovation across campus. This program seeks to add or augment research capacity through the acquisition or upgrading of instrumentation for use by multiple investigators and multiple schools and colleges. Up to \$400,000 will be invested in each funding cycle with two funding cycles in the upcoming academic year.

Those who are interested in this program can reach out to Monica Fishel at [frdo@unm.edu](mailto:frdo@unm.edu).

And don't forget, the vaccines work, are safe, and will protect all of the UNM community.

<https://goodtimes.vaccinerm.org/good-times/>

**James Paul Holloway**

Professor of Nuclear Engineering

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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