

The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

October 13, 2017

One of the enjoyable aspects of being interim provost is the opportunity to see firsthand the broad array of activities taking place on campus that contribute to the research, teaching, and service mission of the University. It is easy to focus on the challenges we face while losing sight of the accomplishments. It is encouraging to see this excellence remaining a constant even in times of change in leadership at the University, city, and state. The items below are just a few examples of these outcomes.

Progress is also evident in the physical spaces of the University, including construction on the McKinnon Center for Management, the renovation of the Farris Engineering building, and the beginning stages of the new Physics and Astronomy Interdisciplinary Sciences building. Work will soon begin on the Smith Plaza and Johnson Gym renovation projects as well. Many thanks are due to all the individuals who have had the foresight to champion these projects. The benefits will be reaped for decades to come.

Finally, I encourage you to attend the open forums for the finalist candidates in the presidential search. The schedule for the forums can be found [here](#), along with a link to the feedback form, and video live streams and recordings of the forums.

LGBTQ Resource Center - Grand Opening

I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening and ribbon cutting of the LGBTQ Resource Center on Wednesday evening. The renovation of the space came together nicely, and was made possible by a state capital allocation by UNM Alumnus and New Mexico Senator Jacob Candelaria. The event included remarks from Senator Candelaria (pictured at right), Interim President Chaouki Abdallah, LGBTQ coordinator Frankie Flores, Interim Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Lawrence Roybal, Executive Director of Equality New Mexico Adrian Carver, and UNM student Arielle Scherrer. I encourage you to visit the new center, which is located at 1919 Las Lomas Blvd. (across from the new McKinnon Center for Management building).



2017 Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program

A UNM graduate student was [recently recognized](#) for research into dark matter and how it may have formed during the early life of the universe (within the first second after the big bang). Jacek Ksawery Osinski, a student in the Physics and Astronomy Department, was chosen for the U.S. Department of Energy's 2017 [Office of Science Graduate Student Research Program](#). The award will support Osinski's research, at least some of which will take place at Los Alamos National Laboratory over the next year. UNM students are responsible for great contributions to our research mission, as Jacek's work highlights. Further, this award underscores the benefits of our proximity to excellent national laboratories.

Chicana and Chicano Studies Enrollment Growth

The Chicana and Chicano Studies Department has enjoyed a [string of recent successes](#), including a 30 percent growth in enrollment, a [feature in Hispanic Outlook](#) that included Chicana and Chicano Studies faculty members, as well as a [viral video](#) of slam poets who appeared in front of a UNM Freshman Learning Community course in September (it currently has more than 600,000 views). The Chicana and Chicano Studies Department was granted departmental status a little more than two years ago, and they have continued to grow under the guidance of Department Chair Irene Vasquez.

Mario Rivera NAPA Announcement

Regents' Professor Mario Rivera was recently elected to the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) as a Fellow of the Academy. NAPA was established by Congress to serve the public interest and aid government in creating better and more accountable organizations. The election is an honor for Professor Rivera, and a positive reflection on the University.

Craig White

Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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