



The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

November 17, 2017

Good afternoon! It seems like I was just writing a welcome to the new semester. I can't believe we're already approaching Thanksgiving. I hope you get some time over the next week to spend with family and friends. I hope to as well and will resume this message on December 1.

The Board of Regents held its November meeting on Tuesday. One of the highlights of the agenda was Vice President of Research Gabriel Lopez's presentation on the Main Campus research enterprise. UNM is focusing on a number of interdisciplinary research areas, including bioinformatics and collections-based research; ecology and climatology; human evolution; social and behavioral dynamics; addiction; and materials and optical sciences and engineering. These initiatives build on some of the University's ongoing strengths in computational and data sciences; high energy density physics; medieval studies; quantum information science; regional resource economics; Southwest anthropological research and socio-cultural studies; Latin American studies; and land arts of the American West. The complete presentation can be found in the Board of Regents's [ebook here](#).

Awards related to these diverse research areas and many others brought in over \$140 million in external funding during FY 2017 (this amount does not include approximately \$200 million in awards at the Health Sciences Center). This work and support is a major reason UNM is viewed as New Mexico's Flagship University. It has also earned the University the Carnegie "Highest Research Activity" designation. It is important that we continue to highlight this portion of the University's mission. Research is woven into the fabric of UNM, and touches almost everything we do.

TREE Center and NM Behavioral Health

I had the pleasure of providing some opening remarks yesterday at the initial retreat for the new Transdisciplinary Research, Equity and Engagement (TREE) Center for Advancing Behavioral Health. The center will bring together researchers from a variety of disciplines to study social determinants of health in New Mexico. The center is being funded by a [\\$7 million federal grant](#) from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) brought in by a team of four principal investigators, including Lisa Cacari Stone, UNM College of Population Health; Steven Verney, Department of Psychology; Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences; and Gabriel Sanchez, Department of Political Science. Associate Professor Cacari Stone will be the director of the new center.

Annual Research Lecture

The Faculty Senate Research Policy Committee is seeking nominations for the Annual Research Lectureship Award. Faculty members from all UNM colleges are eligible. The Annual Research Lectureship is one of the highest honors that UNM bestows on faculty in recognition of achievements in research or creative pursuits. Complete nominations, including all documentation, must be submitted by Dec. 6. More information about the lectureship and nomination process can be found [here](#).

Student Fee Review Board

The Budget Leadership Team heard recommendations from the Student Fee Review Board (SFRB) at their recent meeting. The SFRB is a student committee composed of undergraduate and graduate students charged with making recommendations on the allocation of student activity fee money to campus organizations and resource centers. The SFRB, which was first formed in 1996, is an important way for student voices to be more fully integrated in the strategic management of the University. The recommendations will be shared with the requesting organizations and will serve as input to the president and regents in the budget development process.

Commencement Ceremony Volunteers

The Fall 2017 Commencement is coming up, and volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, you can visit the [sign-up link](#). This year, there will be a single commencement for graduates from all degree programs at all levels. The event will be held on Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. in Dreamstyle Arena. For more information, you can visit the [graduation page](#).

UNM Robotics

A team of students from UNM's School of Engineering [won first place](#) in the 2017 Spacecraft Robotics Challenge. The winner of the competition was the team that could get their robot to assemble a simple satellite the fastest. UNM's team, from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, are all members of the Multi-agent, Robotics and Heterogeneous Systems (MARHES) lab, including: Steve Maurice, Joseph Kloeppe, Rebecca Kreitinger, and Travis Taylor. The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) sponsors the event, in partnership with the UNM School of Engineering. Congratulations to the MARHES team!

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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.