



# The Academic Affairs Weekly Brief

**January 26, 2018**

I write from the Roundhouse in Santa Fe, where the NM State Legislature is in session. Decisions made here in the next two weeks will greatly affect the University in a variety of ways, most powerfully through how much funding the State is able to offer to higher education. The University is working hard to inform legislators regarding our legislative priorities, coordinated by the good work of the Office of Government & Community Relations. You have an opportunity to be part of it all: UNM Day at the Legislature is this Monday, Jan. 29, with displays for the public by units all around campus. You can track bills that matter to UNM [here](#).

Dr. Kate Krause stepped down as Dean of University College at the end of 2017, after five years leading UC and launching UNM's Honors College. Please join me in expressing the University's profound gratitude to Dr. Krause for her excellent leadership and dedicated service.


- Richard Wood, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

UNM was represented at a variety of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 50th Anniversary Commemorations. Dr. Jennifer Gomez-Chavez of the Division for Equity & Inclusion and Professor Sonia Gipson Rankin of Africana Studies and University College provided motivational remarks during the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission commemoration at Albuquerque Civic Plaza, attended by UNM students, faculty, staff, and alumni and hundreds of other supporters. Dr. Lawrence Roybal of the Division for Equity & Inclusion represented the University of New Mexico at the 28th Anniversary Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Multicultural Council Scholarship Awards Ceremony at Congregation Albert, at which 33 outstanding high school seniors received \$1,000 scholarship awards provided by a variety of sponsors including the UNM Division for Equity & Inclusion.

## **Black History Month**

The month-long celebration of Black History originated under the inspiration of [Carter G. Woodson](#), with the dates chosen in honor of both Abraham Lincoln (birthday Feb. 12) and Fredrick Douglass (birthday Feb. 14). For the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial celebration, President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected



accomplishments of Black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." The University of New Mexico has continued to observe this honorary month by [offering events throughout February](#), coordinated by the office of [African American Student Services](#). This year, celebrations commence on Jan. 27, [featuring Dr. Corey Walker for the Annual Kick-off Brunch](#), leading into Feb. 1 for the flag raising ceremony at Scholes Hall. The month's events will culminate on Feb. 28 with a critical conversation pertaining to color that will be held in the SUB (see flier for other events and all details).

### **Faculty Senate Panel Discussion on Free Speech**


The Faculty Senate is hosting a panel discussion on Free speech and the perceived tension between free speech and civil discourse. That event will be held on Monday, Feb. 5 at 5:15 p.m. in the SUB.

### **Faculty Senate Task Force on General Education**

The recommendations of the Faculty Senate Task Force on General Education were approved and endorsed by the Faculty Senate on January 23 and the Dean's Council on January 18. The [full report](#) recommends a two-stage approach at UNM: First, that our current core curriculum adapt rapidly, with as little change as possible, to state legislative requirements. Second, that we adopt a slower, careful process to renovate the core at UNM to reflect our mission as a research university. This process will engage faculty, staff and a leadership team in working together to integrate teaching and learning around research, diversity, community-engagement, writing, and innovation into a General Education Program. Faculty Senate President Pamela Pyle and the Operations Committee facilitated faculty planning and oversight on the implications of legislation for UNM's Core Curriculum through creation of the task force. Thank you to the members of the Task Force for their hard work: Task Force Chair, Dr. Maria Lane, Dr. Kate Krause, Dr. Tryphenia Peele, Dr. Ganesh Balakrishnan, Dr. Regina Carlow, Dr. Kuppaswamy Iyengar, Dr. Catherine Krause, Dr. Monika Nitsche, Dr. Charles Paine, Dr. Tryphenia Peele-Eady, Dr. Marieken Shaner, ex officio member Dr. Pamela Cheek, Sradha Patel (UNM B.A. 2017 and representative of We are the Core), as well as former members Dr. Greg Heileman and Dr. Jamal Martin and, for his support, Rick Holmes of the Office of the University Secretary. The Office of the Provost will publish information about the general education renovation as the process moves forward.

### **Fulbright Award**

Congratulations to Frances Hayashida, associate professor of anthropology, who was recently awarded a Fulbright Award to study and teach in Chile in Fall 2018. The award covers four months of teaching and research, including teaching in the graduate program in the Department of Anthropology at the Universidad de Chile in Santiago, and collaborating with colleagues from the Universidad de Chile, the Universidad Católica del Norte (San Pedro de Atacama), and the Spanish National Research Council on



fieldwork on late prehispanic water management, land use, and ritual practices in the high-altitude, hyperarid Atacama Desert. The research continues an ongoing collaboration that has been previously funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT, Chile), the Spanish Ministry of Culture, the National Geographic Society, the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and UNM's Latin American and Iberian Institute.

### **Preying on the Poor, a lecture by Joe Soss**

The Scholars Strategy Network at UNM is hosting Joe Soss, the Cowles Chair for the Study of Public Service, from the University of Minnesota on Feb. 2. Dr. Soss will be giving a [presentation](#) titled “Preying on the Poor: Criminal Justice as Revenue Racket,” from 12-1:30 p.m. in the SUB, in Lobo A & B. The lecture is free and open to the public.

### **From the faculty and staff team in the Office of the Provost/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](mailto:provost@unm.edu).