

The Wednesday Communiqué

October 17, 2018

'Twas a great day at UNM yesterday: These photos come from the “beam-signing ceremony” for the new PAÍS Building: Physics, Astronomy, and Interdisciplinary Science. This building opens a new era at UNM, as we push into a future in which *both* cutting-edge interdisciplinary research and learning *and* strong disciplines (such as Physics & Astronomy) will be crucial for emerging science & technology and for building an innovative economy. ASUNM, GPSA, UNM staff and faculty, leaders in multiple UNM departments, colleges and schools, university leaders, the Board of Regents, and NM politicians all came together to support this important initiative—which was funded by the people of New Mexico and UNM student fees. We are breaking into a new future in which students will learn in dynamic, creative intellectual environments like PAÍS. It shows what great things can happen when all these groups pull in the same direction—let’s build *that* future together!



From left: Provost Richard Wood, Associate Dean for Research in the College of Arts & Sciences Tom Turner, Student Regent Garrett Adcock, President Garnett Stokes, Associate Vice President of Research Patricia Henning, and Dean Mark Peceny. Photo Credit: UNM ISS.

Major Emerging Research Initiative: Grand Challenges New Mexico

President Garnett Stokes recently announced the launch of a major new research initiative across all parts of the University (including the Branches, HSC and the rest of North Campus, and all of Main Campus). Watch for more information in coming days about this Grand Challenges push to use the knowledge and innovative thinking of a fine research university to identify and *so/ve* some of the key challenges facing New Mexico. Led by Vice President for Research Dr. Gabriel López and Executive Vice Chancellor Dr. Richard Larson.

Lightning Lounge

We invite you to join us for the next Faculty Lightning Lounge, a monthly celebration of faculty research, **today** at 4 p.m. in the Bobo Room of Hodgin Hall. The presenters include:

Christina Salas (Biomedical Engineering): “Biomanufacturing of the Bone-Ligament Interface;”

Greg Taylor (Physics and Astronomy): “Discovery of a new type of cosmic radio source with the Long Wavelength Array;”

Heather Canavan (Chemical & Biological Engineering): “Be Positive: How UNM Bioengineers Have Collaborated with Our Community to improve health outcomes;”

Chris Butler (Political Science): “Level-up Learning.”

The Lightning Lounge evenings feature 4-5 presenters speaking for no more than seven minutes each, in an informal, convivial atmosphere. The events are sponsored by Advance at UNM, the Center for Teaching Excellence, the Office of Academic Affairs, and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Project ECHO: Changing the world fast

UNM’s Project ECHO—originally conceived as a health care model 15 years ago and adopted on nearly every continent with 230 hubs and 560 programs worldwide—is expanding its impact by providing training in law enforcement, education, and more. Learn more at a [free public presentation](#) Oct. 30, 6:30-7:45 p.m., in the Albuquerque Academy’s Simms Auditorium. Please register [here](#). Registration closes once the venue is filled.

Hiring More Native American Faculty at UNM

In case you missed the Communiqué last week during Fall Break: In collaboration with the Deans of UNM Schools and Colleges and thought leaders around campus, we are launching a [cluster hire](#) to bring the next generation of research & teaching by Native American scholars and/or about the American Indian experience. This initiative builds on several terrific hires last year, faculty hires already in process this year, and future hires to build UNM’s profile as one of the nation’s premier destinations for faculty and students from indigenous communities or interested in them.

Salaries @ UNM

I [presented](#) at this week's meeting of the UNM Board of Regents on our faculty compensation situation, and more briefly about our staff compensation situation, flagging the latter for an upcoming presentation. These are simply crucial issues for sustaining our academic mission—both in teaching and in research. I invite feedback on the presentation.

Fall Commencement

Planning has begun for Fall 2018 Commencement, and the sign-up for volunteers is open. If you would like to volunteer, please visit the [sign-up link](#). Full-time faculty and professional staff are especially encouraged to attend: this is how we celebrate our students' learning! It's always a fun event, well-run by our Office of the University Secretary. The event will be held on Friday, Dec. 14 at 6 pm (volunteer assignment hours begin at 3:45 p.m.). This ceremony will recognize graduates from all degree programs at all levels. For more information, you can visit the [graduation page](#).

Richard L. Wood

Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor of Sociology

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