



# The Wednesday Communiqué

**October 31, 2018**

Over the last week several tragedies befell the United States as we witnessed a rise in hate crimes. As our nation seems more divided than ever, partisan polarization has begotten violent conflict. At this moment, we at UNM recommit to our values as a University community where each of us defines all of us. That means many things; in the context of last week's events that includes:

- that we recognize and support our transgender student population, despite recent efforts to delegitimize and erase transgender identities in national policy. UNM is enriched by the diversity of many voices and many identities. UNM [supports your presence here](#).
- that UNM rejects anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim bias, and all forms of racial and religious prejudice. We will redouble efforts at creating an inclusive [campus community and climate](#), and we will rededicate ourselves to educating our community about complicated histories of racism, prejudice, and exclusion.
- that UNM welcomes all of our students no matter where they come from and no matter how they got here. Our campus is enriched by people seeking a better life by attending UNM and joining our community. Support for undocumented students can be found [here](#).


Let us as a university community strive to create a welcoming university for everyone interested in pursuing their educational goals.

## **Vote!**

Early voting is now available upstairs at the SUB every day through Saturday. It's easy, and your voice matters.

## **Budget**

Units throughout campus are struggling to absorb the budget rescissions necessitated by reduced enrollments this Fall semester. In my late September Special Communiqué, I asked that those conversations prioritize absorbing rescissions strategically at every level—i.e. that decisions in departments, colleges and schools, and in Academic Affairs prioritize sheltering to the extent possible those front-line units closest and most central to student success, research, and our overall academic mission. That will often mean restructuring and reorganizing units rather than absorbing cuts 'across-the-board.' There are no easy choices there, but courageous choices now can allow us to move forward.



At the same time, such rescission management cannot be our core strategy for meeting our challenges. If it feels like that in your department or unit, consider asking some questions: What are we doing to generate public support around New Mexico? What are we doing to bring in new funding from non-governmental sources? Or from federal research support and private foundations? Our overall strategy must include dynamic efforts at every level to fund our academic mission: recruiting and retaining students, building public support, creating new funding flows, raising new money. Everyone has a role to play.

### **Student Health Resources**

UNM continues to invest in new support tools for a healthy campus. UNM Student Health and Counseling (SHAC) provides a number of [resources](#), including convenient online [self-help tools](#). Your wellbeing is an important part of your success at UNM, and I encourage you to take advantage of the resources available.

### **Engineering Diversity Award**

UNM Professor Melanie Moses, along with her team in the School of Engineering's computer science department, has been named one of three global finalists in the [Airbus Diversity Award 2018](#) for their project, the [UNM NASA Swarmathon](#). UNM's team was the sole finalist from the U.S.; the two other finalists were from Chile and Hong Kong. The first place team will be announced at the International Global Engineering Deans Council (GEDC) conference hosted in Albuquerque this year from Nov. 12-16. Congratulations to Professor Moses and the 1500 Swarmathon students for their well-deserved recognition, and best of luck at the upcoming conference!

### **Confronting the Past and Present at UNM**

Associate Provost and Professor of American Studies Alex Lubin wrote a [letter](#) that was published in the ABQ Journal last week that describes the process the University has undertaken over the past year to find a long-term solution to the Zimmerman Library murals. The letter nicely addresses how a research university can contribute to public dialogue on resolving complicated issues around public art on campus.

### **Honorary Degrees**

The Office of the Secretary is accepting nominations for honorary degree recipients. Please send nominations to the Office of the Secretary, Scholes Hall 103, MSC05 3340, or email [secretary@unm.edu](mailto:secretary@unm.edu) no later than Monday, Dec. 17. The Honorary Degree policy and list of past recipients are [available online](#).

## Life in New Mexico

“[Running Medicine](#)” gets kids, adults, and older folks outdoors and in motion for better health and wellbeing. It is not an official UNM project, but you’d never know that by who makes it happen: Dr. Anthony Fleg (Dept of Family & Community Medicine), Rod Lansing (American Indian Student Services), Dr. Marygold Walsh-Dilley (Honors College), Dr. Colin Olson (Sociology), and a variety of others gather dozens of people at least twice a week to run, jog, or walk in a fun family atmosphere at the UNM Golf Course, Netherwood Park, and elsewhere. The season is almost over but will start again in March—watch [here](#) for schedule of events.

## 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](mailto:provost@unm.edu).



Autumn foliage in courtyard of Hokona-Zuni Hall at UNM