

The Wednesday Communiqué

November 7, 2018

The coming weeks will be a time of transition in New Mexico following the electoral results and as preparations for the new legislative session and new gubernatorial administration enter full swing. President Stokes and the UNM Governmental Relations team will lead our work to advance the priorities of higher education in the Legislature, including on “UNM Day” with the Legislature on January 28. Meanwhile, lots of good work continues internally on the hard decisions spurred by recent budget news. We are moving forward on exciting fronts: reaching out in service to our students and NM communities, finalizing our case for reaccreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, hiring new faculty, investing in important initiatives, recruiting executive leaders, driving innovative research and creative work, and helping our students successfully finish this semester. Even amid tight budgets, your work for our mission matters.

Candlelight Vigil for Peace, Inclusion, Compassion & Healing

In recent weeks, we have seen a rise in hate crimes, political polarization and division. Members of the UNM community from across campus have joined together to hold a “[Candlelight Vigil for Peace, Inclusion, Compassion & Healing](#)” tomorrow. Let us stay mindful of our connections to one another and remember that “each of us defines all of us.” The event will take place from 5:30-6 p.m. tomorrow (11/8) in UNM’s Smith Plaza, in front of Zimmerman Library. For inquiries contact: Dr. Pamela Cheek: pcheek@unm.edu or Dr. Andrea L. Mays: amays@unm.edu. I hope to see you all there. Thank you to Dr. Mays for her contribution in bringing our Lobo community together to recognize that Each of Us Defines All of Us.

Want to Help NM High School Students Find Higher Ed?

We are currently seeking faculty, staff, and student volunteers for a UNM speakers bureau to go to high schools, religious congregations, neighborhood groups, civic groups. We will be responding to invitations to address groups of 50+ high school juniors and seniors (or other likely college students) to speak about why completing a college degree makes such a difference for young people’s lives. We’ll provide optional talking points. The key is to show potential students why college matters and how the UNM experience can benefit them—all in a fun and dynamic presentation. Help NM students *and* help build UNM enrollments by signing up [here](#).

Santa Fe Opportunity

I wrote a couple weeks ago about an [opportunity in Santa Fe](#). I plan to appoint a faculty member to serve as a part-time liaison to those efforts. If you are interested, please send a cover letter to provost@unm.edu by Nov. 15 that describes your interest in this effort, how your background shows dynamic leadership for the common good, and why Santa Fe matters to you and to the University.

Grand Challenges

President Garnett Stokes recently announced the [UNM Grand Challenges Initiative](#). The [Grand Challenges Launch](#) will be held on Nov. 14, 2018 at 9 a.m. in the Student Union Building, Ballroom C. This is an “opportunity to broaden our student and faculty perspectives and better serve New Mexico by providing opportunities to collaborate through interdisciplinary research and problem solving.” To find more information about these events (and to RSVP) go to grandchallenges.unm.edu/events. If you plan to submit a proposal, the deadline is Jan. 10, 2019. For other questions, contact grandchallenges@unm.edu.

Quick notes


- The next Lightning Lounge is a week from today (11/14) from 4-5 p.m. at Draft & Table Drafthouse in the SUB. The last Lightning Lounge received [positive attention](#) in the Journal.
- International Education Week is next week and has special events planned each day. More information can be found [here](#).
- The University Secretary’s Office needs more volunteers for Fall 2018 Commencement, which will be held Friday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. To volunteer, [sign up here](#).
- There is an [upcoming faculty workshop](#) on responding to microaggressions on Monday, Nov. 12, 11-12:30 p.m., Dane Smith Hall 232. Interested faculty can RSVP (email jcivikly@unm.edu).
- Through our partnership with the United Way of Central New Mexico and the UNM Foundation, faculty and staff contributions inspire a focus on the future and impact the lives and circumstances of those within our community. Please [give](#) through the annual UNM Gives Campaign.

Life in NM

One of the many ways UNM contributes to rich cultural life in New Mexico: Dachary Vann, UNM staff member and alumnus of the Department of Theater and Dance, plays the character Hud in “Hair: The Love-Rock Musical,” [now showing](#) at Musical Theater Southwest in Albuquerque. UNM employees and



Dachary Vann romances the audience before the start of “Hair: The Love-Rock Musical.”



students multiply this thousands of times over by lending their talents to choirs, shows, volunteer work, social service, book groups, and hundreds of other settings at UNM and in the community.

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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.