

The Wednesday Communiqué

November 28, 2018

Contrary to popular stereotypes, university leaders and faculty researchers across the country and at UNM are constantly thinking about how we can do our work better *and* help the public better understand the value of higher education. One way we do that is by understanding more deeply how the university experience impacts students' lives. Such studies have been going on for years, but often with very poor data, only tracking a non-representative group of students, or only those who stay in a particular state, or only tracking the narrowest of economic outcomes. All these fall short of what we need. Two new approaches hold great promise to help UNM and other universities improve our work with students. A [new study](#) out of the University of California will use 'big data' techniques to study the full breadth of the student experience in a highly diverse public research university: what students actually experience, how it impacts their learning, and what matters to their success. And a [pilot project](#) out of the U.S. Census Bureau (focused on our neighbors to the east) provides the richest data and the best study yet of student income and debt for years after they graduate. UNM is very much part of the movement to use emerging data analytic techniques to improve higher education, nationally and here at home. Let's all commit to always getting better at what we do for our students and New Mexico.

New UNM Degrees: Ph.D. and M.A. in Chicano/a Studies:

We are proud to announce the final step in the approval process for new Ph.D. and M.A. degrees in Chicano/a Studies at UNM. The long years of fine work by the faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Chicano/a Studies bore fruit last week, when the state Board of Finance voted in favor of the new degrees. Congratulations to all involved!



At the Statehouse, Nov. 2018: Chair Irene Ortiz, Dean Mark Peceny, Dean Julie Coonrod, and interim Provost Richard Wood with faculty.

Grand Challenges

The [launch of UNM Grand Challenges](#) took place on Nov. 14 and was attended by more than 180 UNM and community stakeholders. Participants generated more than 100 big ideas for further consideration in identifying UNM's three Grand Challenges. If you have a proposal, you can find information on submitting

it [here](#). You can also post ideas and explore possible collaborations through that site. You can also participate on proposal teams by attending [GC Focus Conversations](#) (there are two more coming up this week).

UNM Tribal Summit

As you may recall, on Nov. 8 President Stokes hosted a Tribal Summit at UNM with leaders from New Mexico's tribal nations and pueblos. Another dimension of building those collaborative relationships is the [Native American cluster hiring initiative](#) announced previously. Update on that front: We have already hired three outstanding Native American scholars as part of this initiative, and expect to soon announce several more. This can be a transformative initiative for the university, one dimension of becoming "the University *for* New Mexico."



President Garnett Stokes, Special Advisor to the President Pamela Agoyo, Chancellor Paul Roth, and interim Provost Richard Wood meeting with the Governors and staff people of Native American communities in New Mexico (SUB, Nov. 2018).

Powered by Publics

The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities established the Center for Public University Transformation this year with a focus on improving public higher education. Along with more than 100 other institutions, UNM is taking part in the center's new initiative "[Powered by Publics: Scaling Student Success](#)." The initiative aims to increase access to a college education, increase degree completion, and close the achievement gap by 2025. You can also find more information in [this article](#) by former university president Michael Nietzel.

Lobo Reading Experience

The Lobo Reading Experience is holding a social justice anthem on Tuesday, Dec. 4 from 12-1 p.m. in the SUB Atrium. You can listen to and read lyrics from influential social justice and protest songs throughout the decades and create your own social justice lyrics and poetry to share on Lobo Reading social media. The Lobo Reading Experience was created in 2009 as a common learning experience for the entire UNM community.

Visit to UNM-Gallup

The UNM branch campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos and Valencia provide important higher education opportunities to their communities. Last week Associate Provost Pamela Cheek and University Accreditation Manager Joe Suilmann traveled to UNM-Gallup as part of the preparations for the upcoming accreditation site visit. In addition to a series of productive meetings with Gallup leadership, including CEO James Malm and Dean of Instruction Daniel Primozic, they also had a chance to take in the beautiful Gallup campus and some holiday festivities.



Johnny Largo, Melissa John, Eldon Kee, and Justin Black Moon with the Gallup Physical Plant decorating for the holiday season.

Life in New Mexico

Run, do not walk, to the [Visions of the Hispanic World](#) exhibit now at the Albuquerque Museum. Simply an unbelievable collection of marvelous artwork and other wonders from Spain, Portugal, Latin America, and the Philippines—truly one of the extraordinary shows in Albuquerque of late.

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