



# The Wednesday Communiqué

## January 16, 2019

The New Mexico State Legislature is off and running, with lots at stake for the University's future. At the same time, we also control much of our own destiny, in part through how we utilize our existing budget. We are working on both fronts: UNM will be active in Santa Fe making our case for why investing in university students and the research-and-teaching missions represents a key way to move the state forward *and* deepening work on new approaches to budgeting that can better undergird that mission. Stay tuned: We will update the campus community as things develop. Among our top asks to the Legislature: significant new funding for staff and faculty salaries *and* that the state cover the full amount.

## UNM in Santa Fe

I am pleased to announce that I have appointed Tim Castillo as UNM Academic Affairs' liaison to the City of Santa Fe for the project to redevelop the former Santa Fe University of Art & Design campus (SFUAD, also former campus of the College of Santa Fe). This 64-acre site in the heart of the city represents Santa Fe's best chance to generate opportunities that allow more young people to stay and thrive there. The project is being spearheaded by SF Mayor Alan Webber—with higher education as a central element. We want UNM academic programs to undergird the higher education component, in collaboration with other institutions and the City. Castillo brings terrific skills, a design orientation, and wide social networks to that task. We will soon invite interested others to engage with him in advancing the effort.

## Anderson School of Management

I am happy to announce [the appointment](#) of Dr. Shawn Berman as interim Dean of the Anderson School of Management in the wake of news of Dean Craig White's new appointment as interim Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration. During this important transition, Shawn brings a proven record of leadership and service to UNM students and to the wider New Mexico community. He has been centrally engaged in many key initiatives at ASM in recent years, and will provide important continuity as the School prepares for its next accreditation. I am confident that ASM can continue its growth under his guidance. We are excited to welcome Craig White to his new role in Scholes Hall and to name Shawn Berman as Interim Dean of ASM.

## Surveys at UNM

Surveys provide a structure of accountability within UNM as well as insights into community needs and future opportunities. In the spring, UNM requests administrator evaluations. In light of past feedback, we are streamlining the process this year. All faculty will be given the same input opportunities as before, but now will be asked first whether they have sufficient knowledge of the individual being evaluated to

respond to a survey. If they answer “no,” the survey will terminate immediately and no future reminders will be sent for that survey. I hope this reduces frustration and saves time, while still allowing all who want a voice in evaluating the work of university administrators to do so.

## **Brief Announcements**

Great news from the UNM Honors College’s [Center for Academic Excellence & Leadership Development](#): UNM’s Esteban Abeyta, a senior biochemistry major and honors minor, has been selected for the [2020 Churchill Scholarship](#) (one of only 15 nationwide!). Congratulations, Esteban!

School of Engineering’s Dr. Andrea Mammoli, Department of Mechanical Engineering, led a successful statewide effort on a [\\$20 million, five-year, National Science Foundation grant](#) to modernize the electrical grid and to make it more resilient, reliable, and to handle renewable technologies of the future.

Because I am interested in how UNM can help strengthen the non-profit sector in New Mexico, last week I attended the weekly gathering of [Impact-and-Coffee](#), which brings together social entrepreneurs and community leaders to strategize on moving the state forward. Of course, what did I discover? Mariah Harrison, program manager for our Office of Community-Engaged Learning & Research, was convening the discussion. UNM contributes to the community in myriad ways!

UNM is hosting the [CEO Action Check Your Blind Spots unconscious bias tour](#) on Thursday, Jan. 17, 10:30-3:30 p.m. on Smith Plaza. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

## **Life in NM**

Two ravens in flight over the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, which were sent in celebration of my 28th wedding anniversary with Dana Bell (Associate Director of UNM’s Cradle to Career Policy Institute).

### **Richard L. Wood**

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**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).



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