



# The Weekly Communiqué

**March 7, 2019**

The accreditation site visit with the Higher Learning Commission wrapped up on Tuesday, after both the Friday visits to Gallup and Taos, and the main campus visit on Monday and Tuesday. While the official results are several weeks off, all reports indicate a positive review. The site visit team expressed their appreciation for the quality of the materials prepared for them, the prompt response from campus to the many data requests, and the polished coordination of the on-site review. Thank you and kudos to everyone whose hard work and dedication contributed to a successful visit.

The site visit team will draft its report within the next four to six weeks. At that time we will have an opportunity to review their report and recommendations for errors of fact before that report is submitted to the Higher Learning Commission. The final team report and our institutional response, if we choose to submit one, are then sent to the HLC's Institutional Actions Council for review and action.

## **The New General Education at UNM**

Throughout March and April of 2019, faculty will share strategies for teaching general education courses and Academic Affairs will provide initial orientations about general education teaching, opportunities, and the transition to adapt to state mandated changes. The next presentation is Friday, March 8 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the Roberts Room and focuses on strategies for Community Engaged Learning. More information on the new general education at UNM can be found [here](#).

## **Lightning Lounge**

Please join us for a special edition of the Faculty Lightning Lounge focusing on the UNM Grand Challenges. On March 20 from 4-5 p.m. at the Draft & Table pub in the Student Union Building you can learn more about the three Grand Challenges: 1) Sustainable Water Resources, 2) Successful Aging, and 3) Substance Use Disorders. The faculty presenters are: Dr. Brandi Fink, Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences; Dr. Janice Knoefel, Internal Medicine: Neurology; Dr. Brady Horn, Economics; and Dr. Kerry Howe, Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering.

## **Frederick Douglass Awards to Five UNM Women Faculty**

The NM Black History Organizing Committee and the Cotton Club of Albuquerque hosted a gala evening (and a fun party) on Saturday night under the theme "RESPECT: Honoring Women in Higher Learning." Five leading women faculty members received the Frederick Douglass Awards in honor of their outstanding work in teaching, leadership, mentoring, and community service: Claudia Isaac (Architecture

& Planning), Nancy Lopez (Sociology), Melanie Moses (Computer Science), Sonia Gipson Rankin (Law), and Myra Washington (Communications & Journalism). As the calendar turned from Black History Month (February) to Women's History Month (March), it was a sheer pleasure to be there to honor these women.



Front row, from left to right: Melanie Moses, Sonia Gipson Rankin, Claudia Isaac, Nancy Lopez, and Myra Washington at the Cotton Club Gala. Photo credit: Ron Wallace.

## Partnering with Native Voices

Among the many ways UNM strives to partner with Pueblo, Navajo/Diné, and Apache nations of New Mexico, as well as sovereign nations across the U.S and Canada, is by sponsoring public service announcements on Native America Calling, a nationally syndicated show available locally on KUNM at 11 a.m. most weekdays. You can hear our blurb [here](#), and full shows on "[Protecting Native Voting Rights](#)," "[Safety for elders and others in nursing facilities](#)," and "[The Native voice in state laws](#)." Thanks to Native America Calling and Clifton Chadwick for this budding partnership.

## 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).