

# The Weekly Communiqué

## April 4, 2019

I recently wrote here about how UNM has [dramatically improved](#) the 4-year graduation rate of first-year full-time students. That rate is now ten percentage points *above* what would be predicted based on the entering class profile. Now, new data that will be shown at the April 9 Budget Summit shows what UNM's focus on student success means in the financial lives of our students and their families. Early glimpse: entering full-time first-year students now graduate on average almost a year earlier than a decade ago. Graduating a year early means they and their families save over \$8,000 in direct costs (over \$7,000 in tuition and \$1,000 in books and supplies) plus over \$40,000 in average additional wages they can make by graduating a year early (rough estimate of college graduate wages by *U.S. News & World Report*).

Students have many things to consider as they find a pathway that works for them: Family commitments, the need to work, health status, and prior academic preparation all affect choices about time-to-degree. By giving students greater clarity and momentum toward graduation, our focus on student success and delivering the quality education possible in a research setting helps *all* students graduate sooner, save money, and attain their dreams. Your work makes a difference in our students' lives.

## Finalists for Vice President for Equity & Inclusion

The finalists for the Vice President of Equity and Inclusion search were announced last week. The four candidates are Nancy Lopez, Daryl Joji Maeda, Christine Zuni-Cruz and Assata Zerai. Their visits include meetings with groups across campus, as well as open forums for the campus community. Information on the dates, times and locations for the forums can be found [here](#). Note: the first visit is today (April 4).

## Finalists for Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration

The search for the [Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration](#) has also reached the finalist stage, and those finalists were announced recently. They are Teresa Costantinidis, Dan Layzell, Kevin Reynolds and Terry Pankratz. Information about their upcoming visits and forums, which begin April 15, can be found [here](#).

## Lightning Lounge

The last [Lightning Lounge](#) of this academic year is happening on April 17, 4-5 p.m. at the Draft & Table pub in the SUB. Come join us for quick presentations and conversation. The five presenters are: Naomi Shin, Linguistics, Spanish and Portuguese, and Barbara Shaffer, Linguistics; Jason Smith, History; Meeko

Oishi, Electrical and Computer Engineering; and Julianne Newmark, English. The Lightning Lounge is sponsored by ADVANCE at UNM, the Center for Teaching Excellence, and the Offices of Academic Affairs and Vice President for Research.

### **Academic Affairs General Education Faculty Fellows**

Drs. Joe Ho, Jason Moore, Dawn Nordquist, and Andrew Rowland will be presenting a workshop to develop strategies and share approaches on incorporating undergraduate research into your classroom, whatever your discipline. Learn about and contribute to the development of a framework conceptualizing undergraduate research in General Education at UNM and how it might be expanded beyond. The workshop occurs twice, once at 12:30 p.m. today in the Collaborative Teaching and Learning Building, room 110 (also available on Zoom: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/7243799520>), and again tomorrow (Friday) from 3-4:30 p.m. in Dane Smith Hall, room 224 (Zoom: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/163322443>).

Academic Affairs is also currently soliciting proposals for enhancement of graduate assistant and teaching assistant roles in undergraduate student support. Please see the call for proposals posted [here](#).

### **Lobo Reading Experience: Addressing Patterns of Inequality**

How can we make criminal justice policies more equitable in our local communities? On Monday, April 8, from 6-8 p.m., UNM students and the UNM community are invited to join representatives from education, law, local government, and community organizations for an interactive panel: “Addressing Patterns of Inequality: Criminal Justice Reform Panel.” The event will be held in UNM’s Student Union Building, Ballroom A. This panel has been sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs and Lobo Reading Experience, which is an initiative intended to help foster a sense of community through a common academic reading program. “Addressing Patterns of Inequality: Criminal Justice Reform Panel” was inspired by this year’s book, *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. There is no charge for admission to the panel, and light refreshments will be provided. Questions about the event or the Lobo Reading Experience can be sent to [loboreading@unm.edu](mailto:loboreading@unm.edu).

### **Annual Symposium on Global, National, and Human Security**

The Global and National Security Policy Institute (GNSPI) and National Security Studies Program (NSSP) and the Critical Technology Studies Program (CTSP) are hosting their [10th annual symposium](#): “Global, National, and Human Security: Testing Institutions and Alliances.” The symposium takes place April 9-10 in UNM SUB Ballroom A. Come to learn more about current important issues in global and national security alongside UNM faculty and students, and security experts from around the world.

## **HIGHER Summits for women in academic leadership**

Women faculty or staff who are already in or aspire to roles in higher academic leadership: WISR offers [free professional development summits](#) that give women in higher education administration the tools, relationships, and confidence to thrive personally and professionally.

## **Budget Summit**

The annual Budget Summit is coming up on Tuesday, April 9 with the open session beginning at 9 a.m. in Ballroom C of the SUB. Public comment may be considered during open session. For more information, see here: <http://regents.unm.edu/meetings/notices/2019/bor-notice-2019-04-09.pdf>

## **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).