



# The Weekly Communiqué

**May 2, 2019**

As the semester winds down, our attention turns to wrapping up classes and ramping up student support services to ease rising stress levels. Thanks for all that you do in keeping UNM the place where students can thrive and succeed.

On the research front: The UNM Grand Challenges are already gleaming new external funding to pursue solutions to key social problems in New Mexico. The researchers involved in the Substance Use Disorders Grand Challenge have just won a [\\$2.9 million research grant](#) from the National Institutes of Health! For many faculty, summer is a time to focus especially tightly on research, writing, and creative work—the fundamental intellectual work that lies at the base of everything we do as a research university. The rigors of that work can be intense, but I hope that it is also deeply rewarding. It is, after all, what brought many faculty members to this career and to UNM.

Next week, I will write a longer Communiqué summarizing the year's work here in Academic Affairs and highlighting what I see as key challenges facing the University going forward.

■ Richard L. Wood, Interim Provost

## **Empowering ADVANCEment at UNM**

As many know (and have benefited from), since 2016 the National Science Foundation has funded a major initiative at UNM to undergird institutional transformation that allows women and underrepresented minority faculty members to thrive in the STEM disciplines. ADVANCE @ UNM has been and continues to be a valuable and effective partner to our efforts in the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Division of Equity & Inclusion, and throughout Academic Affairs to create a climate that allows all faculty to thrive and undergirds research and teaching excellence at the University—in part by building more diverse workgroups in departments and interdisciplinary projects. In order to continue to empower that work and best institutionalize it within the life and structure of the University, in collaboration with their leadership I am making ADVANCE a unit within the Office of the Provost now to be known as ADVANCE: The Office of Faculty Development. Their offices will continue to be located in the current building along Redondo Drive. Thanks to the entire ADVANCE leadership for your continued work, now officially part of the UNM structure. For more information see <https://advance.unm.edu/>.

ADVANCE spearheads a collaboration with Academic Affairs called the Women in STEM initiative. Four scientists at UNM [have been selected](#) for the 2019 awards: Dr. Darcy Barron, an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy; Dr. Sakineh Chabi, an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology; and Dr. Hannah Mattson, an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology. Their work includes research on an artificial leaf that can generate solar energy, efforts to improve the retention rates of UNM students in the physics program and an analysis of Cibola ceramics from Chaco Canyon. Another selected proposal will further local understanding of rental housing and property management in Albuquerque.

### **The UNM Hive**

The UNM HIVE network (Health Inclusion Vibrancy and Equity) is a community of faculty, students, and staff who work with a broader network of around 150 local professionals in architecture and planning, business, law, education, and public health. In the [most recent news](#), the HIVE network has focused their attention on a community health issue: the lack of public restroom facilities in Albuquerque, a problem that particularly affects the homeless. As a part of the project, UNM graduate students in the School of Architecture and Planning's (SA+P) Design and Planning Assistance Program (DPAC) are working with the City of Albuquerque to develop a range of possible solutions. As described by SA+P faculty Michaela Pride and Mark Childs, the project addresses an important public need and community health problem, provides students with an opportunity to make a real impact on their community, and uses a multidisciplinary approach to find a solution that treats people with dignity. I encourage you to [read more about it](#); the project epitomizes UNM values.



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Eva Encinias teaching at UNM. Photo by Rafael Estevez.

### **Festival Flamenco Albuquerque**

Every year, the University of New Mexico works together with the National Institute of Flamenco to present [Festival Flamenco Albuquerque](#). An event that began as a small, daylong celebration has become the largest flamenco festival outside of Spain. The 2019 Festival Flamenco spans eight days and presents an incredible delegation of fifty-two flamenco artists from Spain. The Festival includes fourteen performances and forty weeklong workshop classes. The Festival is one way that the University of New Mexico takes an active role in the cultural preservation of this UNESCO Intangible Heritage of Humanity art form. Together, the University of New Mexico and the National Institute of Flamenco produce the Festival, harnessing the power of flamenco to educate, inspire, and connect with our community.



Festival Flamenco 2019 Artist Belen Lopez. Photo courtesy of Eva Encinias and the National Institute of Flamenco.

## Brief Announcements

- President Stokes and her husband, Jeff, have invited the campus community to a [reception](#) on May 6 from 4-5:30 p.m. in SUB Ballroom C to honor departing UNM leadership.
- Tech Days 2019 lands on June 6-7 this year and showcases new technologies on campus. Registration began yesterday, and you can find more information [here](#). The event, held in the SUB Ballrooms, includes keynotes by Hannes Schneidegger and Brian Zufelt.

## 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).