



# Academic Dispatch

**September 27, 2019**

It has been a busy week in academic affairs, but more importantly it has been a busy week and a busy semester in our schools and colleges! This week I most want to mention a few upcoming events that will support student success, celebrate undergraduate student research findings, and give us some food for thought in a complicated world.

## **Student Experience Project at UNM**

What experiences help students feel that they belong in college and what barriers push them to leave before completing their degrees? The Student Experience Project seeks information about these questions. A survey designed to help us better understand all students' experiences in courses required for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) majors and health professions will launch on Monday, Sept. 30. If you are one of the students, faculty, or staff members who receive an invitation to respond to the survey, please consider submitting a response. We will use the information gained from the survey to more effectively support future generations of students at UNM. In collaboration with five other universities and major national research groups and organizations, UNM will develop and implement straightforward interventions and strategies to remove barriers to persistence and success.

If you want to learn more about the project, I encourage you to attend an upcoming presentation by Dr. Mary Murphy, Professor of Psychology at Indiana University, and one of the Principle Investigators working with the Student Experience Project. Dr. Murphy's presentation, "Creating Growth Mindset Cultures in College Classes and Interactions," will be held Monday, Oct. 21 from 2-3 p.m. in the Ortega Reading Room, on the third floor of Ortega Hall (Rm. 335).

The Student Experience Project at UNM, led by Associate Provost Pamela Cheek, is a collaboration with the College Transition Collaborative, the Association for Public Land Grant Universities (APLU) and the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities, with support from the Raikes Foundation.

## **Global and National Security Lecture**

On Tuesday, Oct. 15, UNM welcomes Sandia Laboratories Director Stephen Younger for a lecture titled "Looking Beyond the Numbers: A Century's Experience with Arms Control." The event is part of a Distinguished Lecturer series co-sponsored by UNM's Global and National Security Policy Institute and Sandia National Laboratories. This event is free and open to the public, and it will be held at 6 p.m. in the UNM Continuing Education Building (1634 University Blvd NE). To RSVP for the event, [click here](#). For more information please contact [jazpric@sandia.gov](mailto:jazpric@sandia.gov).

## McNair Research Conference

The national [2019 UNM McNair Scholars Research Conference](#) is coming up on UNM's central campus Oct. 3 & 4. Many of our own UNM students participate in the McNair program, and the conference brings these Lobos together with students from around the nation to share their research and meet with graduate school recruiters. The organizers are looking for faculty and graduate student volunteers to serve as evaluators for student research presentations. Volunteers can sign up for as little as a 25-minute time slot. In addition to supporting a good program, this can be an opportunity for faculty to recruit future graduate students. To sign up, please navigate to the [Volunteer Sign-up Form](#).

## In closing

I hope you are all enjoying the semester so far. With so much happening on campus it's easy to forget to sit and read on the porch. I'm reading "A Perfect Mess," by David Labaree, a history of the structure of higher education in the US, "Pueblos, Spaniards and the Kingdom of New Mexico," by John Kessell, obviously a history of New Mexico, and "Sarum," by Edward Rutherfurd, a trashy historical novel about the English city of Salisbury. I seem to be looking to the past to anticipate the future!

## Dr. James Paul Holloway

**Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**Professor of Nuclear Engineering**

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