

# Academic Dispatch



#Vax the Pack. HSC Marketing and Communications.

## June 18, 2021

"Lift Every Voice and Sing," James Weldon Johnson's poetic anthem of suffering, courage, and hope was first performed by a group of 500 schoolchildren in 1900 at a segregated school in Jacksonville, Florida. The song, also known as the Black National Anthem, has swelled hearts across the United States with its message of freedom from enslavement and its dream of equity to come. As we celebrate Juneteenth by remembering our historical legacy of slavery in the United States and the promise of freedom for African-Americans marked by this day, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" is a powerful enjoinder to renew our work to ensure equity. Here are a few notable recordings. Black woman composer Lettie Alston performed her own classical arrangement, which you can learn about and listen to via [this NPR story](#). And [Beyonce's](#) version brings the house down. Best wishes for celebration and commemoration this Juneteenth.

## Get the Vax!

The vaccines against the SARS-CoV-2 virus are our best defense against the disease, COVID. New Mexico is a national leader in getting our community vaccinated, but we need to do more. As I write, we have about 59% of New Mexicans 16 and over fully vaccinated. If we reach 60%, the NM Department of Health intends to recommend lifting many of the public health constraints that have been in place for the last 462 days. But we need NM to go beyond that if we want to best protect our families and communities. See the [state's vaccine page](#) for information on how to get the vaccine. Many local pharmacies and vaccination sites are providing walk in shots. The state is also running a number of promotions to encourage vaccination, including [drawings for prizes](#) of up to \$250,000. Don't wait. Get the vax and crush the Rona.



## Dean of Law Search

Last week we officially kicked off the search for our next Dean of Law, to replace Professor Sergio Pareja, who will step down at the end of June, 2022. The [search advisory committee](#) is chaired by Anderson School of Management Dean Mitzi Montoya. Other members are: The Honorable Judith Nakamura, Former Chief Justice of NM Supreme Court; Andrea Salazar, Santa Fe City attorney; Sonia Gipson Rankin, Assistant Professor; Serge Martinez, Associate Dean; Clifford Villa, Associate Professor; George Bach, Professor; April Land, Professor; Sam Winder, Assistant Professor; John LaVelle, Professor; Tony Anderson, Law School Staff; Lauren Hund, Law Student; Samantha Adams, Adams and Crow Law Firm. We are assisted in this search by Isaacson, Miller. The role of the committee is to help us build a diverse pool of people who might be interested in this role, and provide me with feedback on them as we recruit candidates and narrow the pool to a few, among whom I would expect to select the next dean. As we get to the finalist stage, we will have public multi-day interview visits on campus, with opportunity for broad input to be provided to me from all the constituencies of the School of Law.

Listening sessions for the Law School faculty, students, and staff will be taking place next week. If you wish to provide feedback on the opportunities and challenges for the new dean, [you can do so here](#), or you can nominate an individual who we might want to develop into a candidate in this search at [this link](#).

I sincerely thank Dean Pareja for his continuing service to UNM and the legal community of New Mexico.

## Arts and Sciences Dean Search

As you all know, Mark Peceny, Dean of Arts and Sciences, will be stepping down at the end of this month after a decade of exemplary service to UNM and to New Mexico. Professor Arash Mafi will serve as Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences next year.

Over the next few months I will assemble a search advisory committee for the next Dean of Arts and Sciences, with the search to start in the fall of 2021. The advisory committee will be comprised of faculty, students, staff, and alumni from Arts and Sciences, and as befitting the essential cross-campus role of Arts and Sciences, the advisory committee will be co-chaired by leaders from both main campus and HSC. If you have recommendations for advisory committee members, please let us know at [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu).

## Women in STEM

Along with [Advance at UNM](#) and the [Office of the Vice President for Research](#), we're excited to announce the 2021 Women in STEM Award winners.

This year's winning proposals will look at better ways to manage water, how healthy brains age, and methods for transferring knowledge between robots. They also will examine ways to reduce the environmental impacts of human waste; social identities of people diagnosed with Celiac Disease; paths to better helping communities affected by climate change and the effects of acute sugar intake, including possible links to asthma.

The recipients this year are **Dr. Miriam Gay-Antaki**, an assistant professor in Geography and Environmental Sciences; **Dr. TyAnna Lovato**, a research assistant professor in Biology; **Dr. Amalia Parra**, a research assistant professor in Biology; **Dr. Xiaoxue Li**, an

assistant professor in Economics; **Dr. Sarah Stith**, an assistant professor in Economics; **Dr. Anjali Mulchandani**, an assistant professor in Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering; **Dr. Suzanne Oakdale**, an associate professor in Anthropology; **Dr. Caroline Scruggs**, an associate professor in Community and Regional Planning; **Dr. Melinda Morgan**, an associate professor in Geography and Environmental Studies; **Dr. Jingjing Wang**, an assistant professor in Economics, **Dr. Alex Webster**; a research professor in Biology; and **Dr. Lydia Tapia**, an associate professor in Computer Science.

And don't forget: get vaccinated!

**James Paul Holloway**

Professor of Nuclear Engineering

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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