



Credit: UNM American Indian Student Services

March 13, 2022

In the moment of toil, what is being accomplished feels misty. Graduations, however, are crystal-clear, blue-sky days. Over 3,500 students will graduate tomorrow. We have already begun celebrating. As proud faculty and staff placed graduation stoles around the shoulders of students at the African American Student Services, El Centro de la Raza, and American Indian Student Services ceremonies this month, joy radiated from Lobo faces. Some student parents carried their babies to the platform with them, providing a glimpse of their journey to graduation and of the journey their children will make in the next generation. Students are graduating in nursing, early childhood education, Chicana and Chicano Studies, architecture, engineering, law, history, physics, project management, and a host of other programs. A whole new future will be forged when they walk across the graduation dais to receive their degrees.

We did this! Through labs and papers, Covid and zoom, masks and tears, we all made this blue-sky day possible.

Through the mists of this past year, you might distinguish the creation of the Department of Africana Studies, the launch of a mechanical engineering partnership to meet needs of Los Alamos National Labs employees, the opening of a new Workforce Training Center at UNM Valencia, or the hiring of inspiring chancellors, deans, chairs, faculty, and staff leaders. Forward through the mists you might perceive the forms of what we are becoming in our bond proposals for a Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology and for the Child Psychiatric Center and in the development of our UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined vision and strategic plan.

You might feel movement through the mist, catalyzed by a slate of new leaders. Vice President Dan Garcia has ushered in two years of significant growth in entering first-year undergraduates, and we see growing graduate cohorts as well. Faculty and new deans have created needed academic programs and helped others expand. Our Certificate in Construction Management at UNM-Gallup has shown 230% growth from last academic year to this, and our Graduate Certificate in Music Performance showed growth over 110%. Our Masters in Earth and Planetary Science grew by 85%, the BFA in Film and Digital Arts by 56%, the BS in Child and Family Studies by 37%, and the MBA by 27%. The PhD in Chemistry grew by over 50% and the graduate programs in Geography by 56%. And there are many others.

Not far in the distance, as the mist starts to clear, there is a UNM that is stronger for all the work you have been doing and all the systems we have been building during Covid: systems for supporting hiring, curriculum, research and creative work, teaching, and student persistence. In the mist you will see something you wrote or created, the wound you healed, or our collective achievement of keeping a university—a complex and vital institution—alive. Sketched in the mist, you will see promise of a university that is vibrant, excellent, equitable. All the toil offers generations of joyful, blue-sky graduation days ahead.

UNM-Los Alamos Chancellor

I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mike Holtzclaw as next Chancellor at UNM-Los Alamos, effective July 18, 2022.

Mike is currently the vice president of Instruction at the College of San Mateo in California, a position he began in January 2019, just before the pandemic. In that role he helped to pivot the entire college to online instruction and student services. He also managed more than 50 academic disciplines supported by over 275 part-time and full-time faculty. In addition, Mike utilized his college's HSI-STEM and MESA grants to support underrepresented students in the sciences.



Dr. Mike Holtzclaw, Chancellor,
UNM-Los Alamos

Prior to his current position, Mike served as the senior dean at Diablo Valley College in San Ramon, California, where he oversaw all instructional programs, student services, facilities, and IT for the branch campus. He also served four years at Ohlone Community College in Fremont, California, where he served as dean of Science, Engineering and Mathematics. He also worked to establish relationships with NASA/Ames, Lawrence Livermore, and Lawrence Berkeley National labs for student internships and faculty externships, and expanded the collaboration of industry and community partners to develop and redesign curriculum that fit the needs of a future workforce. He has also served as dean of instruction at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon (his home state). He began his career in higher education serving as assistant dean of Admissions at Lewis & Clark, and he has also taught English as Second Language in Taiwan, and for 13 years was a professor of geography at Central Oregon Community College.

I am grateful to the search advisory committee, chaired by UNM-Taos Chancellor Mary Gutierrez, for their dedicated work in bringing Mike to UNM. I am also deeply indebted to Chancellor Cindy Rooney for all her work at UNM-Los Alamos, and for her friendship during my time as provost. Fortunately, Cindy is not going away, and will continue with UNM on a variety of special projects in the coming months.

UNM-Valencia Chancellor

Moving south, I'm excited to report that, effective August 1, 2022, Dr. Samuel Dosumu will start his service as Chancellor of UNM-Valencia, replacing Alice Letteney. Sam Dosumu has spent much of his 30-year career serving community colleges in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, North Carolina, and New Mexico. He has held a variety of positions, including provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at Hawkeye Community College, associate vice chancellor of Academic Affairs at Maricopa County Community College, vice president of Instructional Services at Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College, dean of Business and Information Technology at San Juan College in New Mexico, and most recently Executive Dean of the Southwest Campus of Pueblo Community College in Colorado.



Dr. Samuel Dosumu, Chancellor,
UNM-Valencia

As Executive Dean since 2019, Sam Dosumu has supervised a rural campus with oversight of all administrative operations, academic and student affairs, fiscal and budget functions, facilities, and enrollment management. The campus also has sites in Bayfield and Durango, all within a 40-mile radius of Durango, covering 6,700 square miles over five counties in the southwest corner of Colorado. Sam has worked with career technical education, high school partnerships, associate degree completion, and transfer pipeline programs. In addition, Sam is a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission, has led change panels for HLC, and served on site visit teams conducting reaffirmation visits at over 20 colleges across the HLC region.

My thanks to the search advisory committee for this search, ably chaired by Dr. Cindy Rooney. My sincere thanks also to UNM Valencia Chancellor Alice Letteney, who will retire from long service to UNM at the end of July.

There are lots of good things going on at UNM.

James Paul Holloway

Professor of Nuclear Engineering

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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