Credit: Hyunju Blemel. University Communication and Marketing.

November 14, 2022

The State of New Mexico released an economic development plan back in 2021, and in this plan identified nine economic sectors on which the state should focus to diversify and strengthen our economy. These nine sectors are aerospace, biosciences, cybersecurity, film & television, outdoor recreation, sustainable & value-added agriculture, intelligent manufacturing, global trade, and sustainable & green energy. The state also noted the critical importance of science, technology, and mathematics (STEM) education to these sectors, as well as for many of New Mexico's existing employers. The plan also calls out higher education as increasingly unaligned with these state priorities. At UNM, we have begun to systematically explore how we can grow and strengthen STEM education and research, specifically to better align with the state plan and in support of our own UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined goals, where this effort is an aspect of Advancing New Mexico, Student Experience & Innovation, and our One University aims (at least!).

One aspect of this effort will be to grow our School of Engineering (SOE). SOE is already a powerhouse, the highest ranked engineering program in the state, and a home for many of the researchers who have developed technologies licensed through UNM's Rainforest Innovations to create companies in New Mexico and across the nation. We hope to take SOE to the next level.

Dr. Donna Riley Named Jim and Ellen King Dean of Engineering

I am thrilled therefore to announce the appointment of Dr. Donna Riley as the next dean of the UNM School of Engineering, effective April 1, 2023. Dr. Riley is an exemplary leader deeply committed to supporting student and faculty success, and I'm confident she will be a strong champion for SOE, increasing our impact in STEM education, research, and economic development within New Mexico. Her mandate is to grow engineering, increase the student body, expand the faculty, and broaden the reach of

our research. She is excited for the opportunity to work with students, faculty, staff and the people of New Mexico to advance the School of Engineering. She is deeply committed to the inclusive excellence that is a hallmark of UNM.

Dr. Donna Riley, Dean of Engineering Designate

Riley is currently Kamyar Haghighi Head and Professor in the School of Engineering Education and Professor in Environmental and Ecological Engineering at Purdue University. Dr. Riley joined Purdue in 2017 from Virginia Tech, where she was Professor and Interim Head in the Department of Engineering Education. From 2013-2015 she served as Program Director for Engineering Education at the National Science Foundation (NSF). Riley also spent thirteen years as a founding faculty member of the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College, the first engineering program at a U.S. women's college. In 2005 she received an NSF CAREER award on developing critical pedagogies for engineering classroom implementations.

Riley is the author of two books, "Engineering and Social Justice" and "Engineering Thermodynamics and 21st Century Energy Problems," both published by Morgan and Claypool. She is the recipient of the 2016 Alfred N. Goldsmith Award from the IEEE Professional Communications Society, the 2012 Sterling Olmsted Award from ASEE, and the 2010 Educator of the Year award from Out to Innovate. Riley earned a B.S.E. in chemical engineering from Princeton and a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon in Engineering and Public Policy. She is a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Riley fills the position held by Christos Christodoulou. Christos, who has been Dean since 2017, will continue as a distinguished professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the end of 2022. Professor Charles Fleddermann will act as interim Dean from January 1 until March 31, 2023. I thank Dr. Fledderman for his upcoming service as interim dean.

I most gratefully thank Christos for his tireless work to build on the strength of UNM Engineering. He has been unflagging in his dedication to SOE, and is a key contributor to ensuring the foundation of UNM's future. Ευχαριστώ πάρα πολύ.

Integrated Campus Planning

And to realize the future that Christos has helped us ensure, I'd like to remind you all that UNM is kicking off its Integrated Campus Plan (ICP) process, and your input is needed. The ICP will help to define the long-range vision of our physical spaces, and includes all UNM branches and properties. Supportive of the mission and vision outlined in UNM 2040: Opportunity Defined, the ICP will guide our decisions on UNM's physical environment, including the safety, access, mobility, sustainability, and character of each

of our campuses. I encourage you to learn more about the planning process and share what you think is essential to improve or preserve The University for New Mexico. Your input will help define our future.

James Paul Holloway
Professor of Nuclear Engineering
Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this Academic Dispatch is available on the Academic Affairs website. Your feedback and input are welcome at academicdispatch@unm.edu.