

# Academic Dispatch



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**June 14, 2023**

## **Dean of Arts & Sciences**

I am very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jennifer Malat, currently of Virginia Commonwealth University, as the next Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, effective August 21, 2023.

Dr. Malat brings a breadth of experience to this role, having served previously as a vice president for development at VCU, as Dean of Humanities and Sciences at VCU, and as a divisional dean for social sciences at the University of Cincinnati. As the dean of the College of Humanities & Sciences at VCU, she successfully guided the college through the first two years of the pandemic and prioritized improved equity for students, faculty and staff. During that time, she worked with colleagues to implement new procedures for inclusive hiring practices resulting in a racially diverse cohort of new faculty in the Fall of 2022, with over half of the college's new faculty persons of color. Along with retention, the effort resulted in a 14 percent growth in faculty of color in two years. Malat strongly supported faculty-led initiatives to increase inclusive and engaged teaching across her college. The Leaders for Inclusive Learning program provided structured learning and empowerment for change among a cohort of faculty, while the Innovations in Teaching and Student Engagement Award was created and designed to fund projects such as a Summer Camp in Philosophy for high school students. She also implemented a student recruitment and retention plan that resulted in strong student engagement and 81% retention of first-year first-generation students that exceeded pre-pandemic levels.



Dr. Malat will also hold the position of Professor of Sociology at UNM. Her research focuses on racial inequity in health and has “involved the critical examination of how social structures create and maintain inequality from multiple vantage points,” and has been federally funded and widely disseminated in academic journals. Her teaching has primarily focused on race and racism in the United States.

I am thrilled to have Jennifer joining us at UNM, especially as we jump into strategic planning for colleges under the UNM 2040 framework.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to both Professor Arash Mafi and Professor Janie Chermak, who have each served as Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences during the difficult transition through and out of the height of the pandemic, and who were instrumental in building a sound financial foundation for the college following the significant revenue losses of 2020.

### **Anderson Dean Search Continues**

I have decided to continue the search for the next dean of the Anderson School of Management through the summer and into the early fall. The search advisory committee will remain largely unchanged, with just a few replacement members. I hope we will have on-campus interviews in the early fall, with a new dean in place by early 2024. I am thrilled to report that Interim Dean Julie Coonrod has agreed to remain in place for this time. Thanks, Julie!

### **James Paul Holloway**

**Professor of Nuclear Engineering**

**Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**

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