



President's Report

A report to the University of New Mexico Board of Regents from the Office of the President

Message from David J. Schmidly

It's the beginning of another academic year, filled with anticipation and promise. We start this year with a brief look back. Last year's theme for the University of New Mexico was *Connect*. We got to know one another, established new partnerships with CNM and other institutions around the state, secured our future campus in Rio Rancho and connected with a number of New Mexico communities.

This coming year's theme will be *Communicate*. I propose that we embrace open and honest communication in all of our interactions at the university, and I predict this will prove to be our greatest strength. With that theme in mind, my executive team and I reviewed the regents' goals for the president and have made recommendations for your consideration. We focused on the following challenge: the greatest opportunity for excellence at UNM is to produce from the unique mix of New Mexico's diverse population the workforce, leaders, health care providers and scholars who will contribute to the social and economic vitality of our state, region and nation. This is a relevant, targeted goal that is well worth pursuing.

One of the major accomplishments of my first year has been hiring key members of a stable executive leadership team to join with several veterans who together will serve with a vitality that promises greatness for the future of our university. Please join me in welcoming the individuals who've just joined us: Suzanne Trager Ortega, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; Carmen Alvarez Brown, vice president for enrollment management; Jozi De Leon, vice president for equity and inclusion and Gilbert Gonzales, chief information officer.

As we embark on our new academic year, I want to make special mention of the five UNM professors who have been promoted to the rank of UNM distinguished professor, which is the highest faculty rank at the university – Jeff Brinker, Patricia Crown, Sul Kassiech, Barbara McCrady and Gerald Vizenor. You'll read about these illustrious individuals elsewhere in this report. They are the teachers and scholars who have achieved renown on a national and international scale, who bring recognition to our outstanding faculty and who are key to UNM achieving greatness.

Our returning veterans will be getting much deserved attention this coming year. Last month, President Bush signed into law the most sweeping change in the GI Bill since the program was initiated in the days following World War II. Under the revisions, veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan will be eligible for nearly twice the funds they are presently getting. Veterans currently enrolled will get an interim 20 percent bump in benefits. Beginning in the fall semester of 2009, veterans will be able to get a four-year degree at no cost. This will have a profound and favorable impact on life here at UNM.

I want to make it a priority for UNM to meet the challenge of serving these brave young men and women. The adjustment from military to civilian life is never easy, and we want to provide these veterans and their families with the assistance they need. We're working to ensure they fully avail themselves of all of the resources offered by the nation and our generous community. In the near future, we will firm up the plans for a Veterans' Center at the university. The original GI Bill helped shape the nation and transformed academia in the process. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities this new revision of the bill will provide us.



UNM President David J. Schmidly

David J. Schmidly



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Barbara McCrady



Suleiman Kassiech



C. Jeffrey Brinker



Gerald Vizenor



Patricia Crown

UNM promotes five to distinguished professor

Five faculty members have been promoted to the rank of UNM distinguished professor. The 2008-09 inductees are C. Jeffrey Brinker, chemical and nuclear engineering, School of Engineering; Patricia Crown, anthropology, College of Arts & Sciences; Suleiman Kassiech, Anderson School of Management Endowed Chair in Economic Development and Regents' Professor of Management of Technology; Barbara McCrady, psychology, College of Arts & Sciences, and director of the Center on Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, and Addictions; and Gerald Vizenor, American Studies, College of Arts & Sciences. ■



Parents of high schoolers recently visited UNM during the first Parent Experience Program.



UNM among 'Best 368 Colleges'

UNM is one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review. The New York-based education services company, known for its test-prep courses, features UNM in the just-published 2009 edition of its annual book, "The Best 368 Colleges." Only about 15 percent of America's 2,500 four-year colleges are in the book, which contains a two-page profile on each school. ■

UNM-Gallup ranked third in degrees awarded to Native Americans

UNM-Gallup is ranked third among the nation's community colleges for granting associate degrees to American Indian students, according to preliminary figures issued by the U.S. Department of Education, and as published in Community College Week.

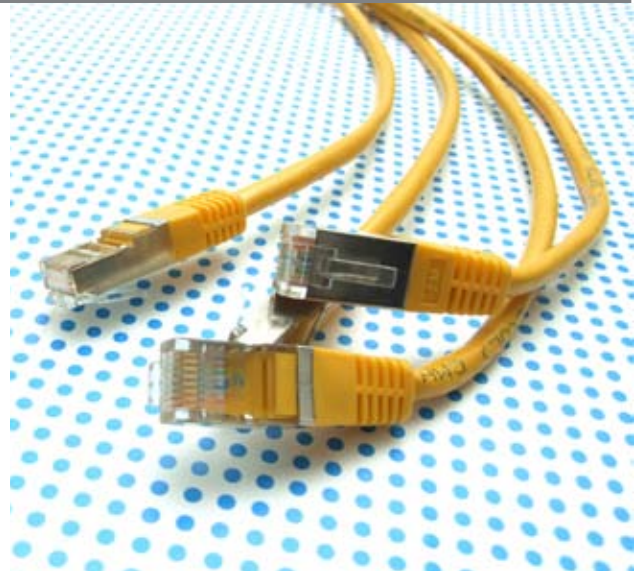
UNM-Gallup granted 124 associate degrees to American Indian students in 2006-07, a 5 percent increase from 2005-06.

Community College Week's listing of "Top 100 Producers" also showed that UNM-Gallup was the number one college in New Mexico for granting associate degrees to American Indian students. ■

Gonzales named new chief information officer

Gilbert Ramirez Gonzales has been appointed UNM's chief information officer. He is scheduled to assume the role Aug. 18.

The chief information officer is charged to lead integration of information technology functions across the UNM campus. Gonzales has been the chief information officer at California State University, Monterey Bay since 2002. ■



Students to get break on financial aid

Students awarded Federal Pell Grants are getting a little more money for school this fall. The maximum grant amount for the neediest students is increasing by almost \$500 to \$4,731. Each year more than 8,000 students at UNM receive the grants, which assist them in meeting the costs of attending UNM.

There will also be a break for students awarded the subsidized Stafford Loan. The interest rate is now 6 percent, down from 6.8 percent.

Both the lower interest rate and the increased Pell Grants are part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act passed by Congress last year. ■



Mexican curanderas opened the second week of the UNM traditional medicine course with a ceremony that included cleansing of participants and an offering of thanks to the four directions, the sky and the earth.

Researcher awarded coveted NIH grant

Karen Cowden Dahl has received a grant for close to \$1 million to support her work as a basic cancer researcher at the UNM College of Pharmacy. The K99/R00 grant, also called the Howard Temin Pathway to Independence Award in Cancer Research, is one of most coveted grants in Cowden Dahl's field. She is researching the progression of ovarian cancer. Funded by the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, the grant will be used over a period of five years and is there to help postdoctoral researchers transition to independent investigators. ■





Lobos set new G.P.A. record

The combined grade point average of the Lobos' 21 athletics programs for the 2008 spring semester was a school-record 3.11. UNM's previous high was 3.08 in spring 2006. The Lobos have reached a G.P.A. of 3.00 or better for 11 of the last 12 semesters. Football (2.79), men's skiing (3.75) and swimming and diving (3.50) posted program highs for G.P.A.

Alford helps Special Olympics New Mexico Golf Classic

Men's basketball coach Steve Alford was the featured participant in the 2008 Special Olympics New Mexico Sports Auction and Golf Classic. Alford helped SONM gross more than \$100,000, tripling the amount made last year.

The golf tournament included Alford, men's basketball assistant coaches Ryan Miller and Chris Walker, baseball coach Ray Birmingham, Vice President for Athletics Paul Krebs and Senior Associate Athletics Director Tim Cass.

Women's golf recognized for academic achievement

The women's golf team has been recognized by the National Golf Coaches Association for its academic achievement during 2007-08. Head coach Jill Trujillo's Lobos compiled a 3.54 team G.P.A. during the fall and spring semesters to rank No. 16 nationally. The Lobos are the only Mountain West Conference institution listed among the top 25. ■

Lobos make APS backpack distribution a hit



Members of the UNM men's basketball and football teams were recently at The Pit distributing more than 4,000 backpacks filled with supplies to elementary and middle school students as part of the Albuquerque Public Schools' supply drive.

Supply distribution was handled in part by UNM student-athletes in service learning classes. Members of the Lobo football, men's basketball and men's soccer teams assembled backpacks full of supplies and planned the distribution event at The Pit earlier in the summer. ■

Foundation tops \$84 million

The UNM Foundation has exceeded the \$80 million fundraising goal for fiscal year 2007-08, topping at more than \$84 million in private support for the university. The Foundation has more than doubled donations during the past four years, from \$41.76 million in FY 2003-04.

In addition, the reorganization plan for the Foundation is well underway. UNM Foundation President John Stropp is spearheading this initiative and hopes to transfer the majority of employees to the Foundation between September and January. ■

UNM receives \$2.5-million for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder research

UNM has been designated an Alcohol Research Center by the National Institute of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. The New Mexico Alcohol Research Center (NMARC) has received a five-year research grant totaling \$2.5 million to study Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

The NMARC will work to identify new approaches for diagnosing children with FASD earlier in life and to develop effective interventions for treating FASD-related behavioral problems. ■