



UNM 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

Each year during my tenure as president, it is my privilege to prepare a work plan for the coming year based on the "Regents' Goals for the President" given to me upon my arrival at UNM in 2007. At last month's Board of Regents meeting, my work plan for fiscal year 2010 was approved. I invite you to review the goals and this work plan in their entirety on my Web site at unm.edu/president.

This year, I have chosen five goals for special emphasis, as they are mission-driven and aimed at helping us to strategically focus our energy, resources and efforts over the coming year.

Accountability: If we are to continue to build a culture of true accountability, we must ensure that members of the UNM community have regular and meaningful access to the administration to share ideas, challenges and concerns. Toward that end, we have already begun holding all-school/college faculty meetings with me and the executive cabinet. For each of these meetings, faculty members develop an agenda to help us understand the opportunities, challenges and concerns that are unique to the individual schools and colleges.

Academics and Student Success: We are already working with academic units to develop strategies to improve academic advising. A review of how we go about awarding scholarships is also in process so that we can ensure clarity, consistency and student-friendly practices. I have engaged the Division of Enrollment Management to champion a university-wide degree audit to ensure that degree requirements are up to date. The end in mind is to provide a clear and useful tool for each student's course planning and management of time to graduation.

We will soon address additional issues – ensuring adequate computer availability for students, further strengthening our branch campuses, and developing and implementing an improved model for distance education.

Fundraising: UNM has had wonderful success with fundraising over the past year, despite the serious downturn in the economy. Clearly, our donors are both committed and generous. We continue to build on that success. The UNM Foundation is developing a compelling strategy for the public launch of UNM's comprehensive capital campaign. These efforts will primarily focus on initiatives that directly support the academic achievement of our students, with a secondary focus on athletics.

To support this important work, I am in the process of developing the "President's Engagement and Outreach Initiative" to ensure that I am actively involved with the key donor base and major constituencies throughout the campaign. This will be an exciting year as we continue to connect with the supporters and champions of UNM's future.



President David J. Schmidly

Rio Rancho Campus: We continue to make excellent progress on construction of the first building on UNM's Rio Rancho campus and are on track for a January 2010 opening. As the first building goes up, we are also developing plans for how we will fund the new facility over time. Our next big step is to develop a comprehensive academic plan for the Rio Rancho campus that will include programs to be offered by UNM, the UNM Health Sciences Center and Central New Mexico Community College.

Relationship and Communication with the Board of Regents: We are continuing to explore ways to improve governance and communications practices at UNM to ensure transparency, the inclusion of ideas from the UNM community, and a clear understanding of respective roles. Toward those ends, I, along with the provost, am working with the chair of the Regents' Academic and Student Affairs Committee to develop an active agenda that addresses major academic issues on all campuses.

So you can see that only six weeks into the fall semester, we are off and running. While this may be my work plan, I know that I cannot do it alone. Please know how much I welcome and appreciate your ideas and contributions as we move this important work forward over the coming year.

David J. Schmidly



At a recent UNM tailgate, UNM regents honored former regent Mel Eaves for his years of service on the board. Eaves (third from left) was presented the Nambé Lobo Head plaque.

Three awarded Fulbrights

Ivan Deutsch, professor, Physics & Astronomy, received a Fulbright to travel to the Institut de Ciències Fotòniques in Barcelona, Spain. He will share his expertise in quantum information science and engage local scholars through research collaborations. Sarah Gustavus, KUNM reporter, received a special Fulbright grant to go to Germany this fall with a delegation of other journalists for a short-term trip. Margaret Edwards, graduate student, political science, has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to Argentina. ■



ISTEC rebuilds abandoned acequias

Digging ditches isn't how UNM students usually expect to spend their summers. But this low-tech task is part of an ISTEC, Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium program to reestablish the old acequia system that Spanish and Tlaxcalteca settlers once used.

Working with the South Valley Regional Association of Acequias, ISTEC developed the project to bring back traditional small farms. Through the years many families have sold or lost their water rights. The first step to reestablish those rights was to remap the old South Valley acequias.

The group worked on mapping the old acequias throughout the summer of 2008, and this summer started digging out acequias that haven't been used for 50 years to reconnect them to the main acequia system. ■



Palace of the Governors

College of Education to bring 80 teachers to study Santa Fe history

The National Endowment of the Humanities awarded UNM's College of Education a Landmarks of American History and Culture grant for more than \$160,000 to bring 80 K-12 teachers from around the country to Santa Fe to study the history and interactions between Native Americans and European settlers in weeklong workshops. The project, "Contested Homelands: Unpacking the Knowledge, History and Culture of Historic Santa Fe, New Mexico," will be directed by Assistant Professor Rebecca Sánchez. The award is unique for the college because the NEH generally funds museums and humanities scholars.

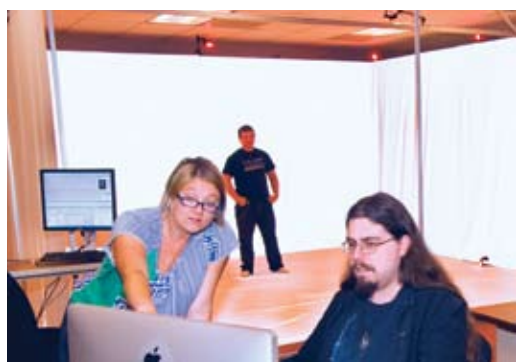
The project also received the participation and support of the Palace of the Governors, the State Historian's Office and others. ■



Journalist Sam Quinones speaks with students about his book "Antonio's Gun and Delfino's Dream" for the first Lobo Reading Experience. The provost's office invited all freshmen and the campus community to read this book on migration experiences and participate in related activities in and out of the classroom.

National scholars enrich UNM

“UNM chose me.” That – plus a full scholarship and challenging, community-oriented degree programs – is why more of the nation’s top students are choosing UNM. The number of National Merit, Achievement, Hispanic Recognition, and American Indian Scholars at UNM has doubled in each of the past two years, from 14 admitted in 2007 to 77 in 2009. See an interview with four of the newest scholars at youtube.com/unmlive. ■



New animation technology gives Valencia students cutting-edge experience

UNM-Valencia students can now get hands-on experience with groundbreaking motion-capture animation technology, the Open Stage Markerless Capture System, through a \$2.5 million Federal Title-V Science, Technology, Engineering and Math grant for a campus-wide tech makeover.

Earlier motion-capture systems, used to animate characters in video games and films, relied on a complex, time-consuming process of tracking markers dotting an actor’s spandex suit. The new markerless system, with 14 tracking cameras and higher computer processing speeds, uses a 3-D mesh skeleton linked to the movement of 21 bones to allow more flexibility in poses with less set-up time.

UNM-Valencia plans to use the system in medical imaging, architectural rendering with animated figures, game animation and environmental science. ■



Kenny Ham demonstrates an electric vehicle prototype built by students at UNM-Los Alamos.

TWEAK takes off

Community Education students at UNM-Los Alamos built an electronic vehicle in just one month this summer. Instructor Michael Ham and his classes produced a working prototype of TWEAK (Three-wheeled Electric Alternative by KinAesthetic Wind).

Ham, a physicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory, and his brother Kenny, a mechanical engineering student, are the president and vice-president of KinAesthetic Wind, a nonprofit designed to increase the amount of renewable energy generated in the United States. The nonprofit raised about \$1,000 to produce the TWEAK prototype.

Ham calls the vehicle “version zero” of what he hopes will be an ongoing project to produce a viable alternative mode of transportation for commuters that would cost between \$3,000-5,000. ■

Engineering undergraduates offered work on space weather projects

The National Science Foundation awarded the Configurable Space Microsystems Innovations and Applications Center, COSMIAC, a \$474,000 grant for the Research for Engineering Undergraduates program. The center is hiring electrical and computer engineering majors to work on analyzing and building components for satellite systems designed to monitor elements of space weather.

COSMIAC Deputy Director Craig Kief said, “The Air Force Research Laboratory is moving the Hanscom Space Weather Directorate to Kirtland Air Force Base, and they will need employees with expertise in the field. By the time these students graduate, they will have a firm background in the instruments that will drive the information coming from the satellites.” ■



Lobo Tour looks to build Land of Lobos

Too often a university and its athletic department are associated and linked to the city in which that university is located. UNM took steps throughout the summer to make sure the communities of New Mexico realize that UNM and its Lobos proudly represent an entire state.

The Lobos plan to take additional steps in 2010 to carry the message to all corners of the Land of Enchantment. The goal? To make New Mexico the Land of Lobos.

The 2009 Lobo Country Tour, sponsored by the New Mexico Sports Authority, made stops in Farmington, Hobbs, Santa Fe, Gallup and Rio Rancho, with more stops planned for 2010.

UNM researchers bring in stimulus funds

Researchers at UNM main campus received \$12.6 million in competitive grant awards from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds. Researchers still have 119 proposals submitted for stimulus funding.

The largest grant is \$6.7 million awarded by the National Science Foundation to the Long Term Ecological Research Network, based in the Department of Biology. The five-year grant will support cyber-infrastructure development for integrated network science.

Another major grant is to develop technologies to help programmers solve security problems computers have when they must deal with multiple things going on at one time.

Other projects include tools for cryptographic protocol analysis, influence of beavers on the river systems in Yellowstone National Park, and a Web-based substance abuse and sexually transmitted disease program. ■



Cancer Center opens new treatment facility

The UNM Cancer Center, the state's only National Cancer Institute-Designated Cancer Center, opened the first phase of its new UNM Cancer Treatment and Clinical Research Facility, providing fully-integrated, comprehensive cancer diagnosis and treatment. Until the opening of this new facility, more than 600 physicians, nurses and staff worked in increasingly tight quarters to keep up with a rapidly growing patient population. Last year, the UNM Cancer Center served more than 7,600 patients in over 90,000 patient visits, which represents half the adults and virtually all children diagnosed with cancer in the state. The new center will provide ample space to serve more than 200,000 patients every year. ■

Project ECHO receives \$5 million RWJF grant

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation awarded a three-year, \$5-million grant to Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes), a New Mexico program that brings specialty care to patients in rural and underserved areas suffering from serious, complex chronic conditions.

Project ECHO uses a secure, Internet-based audio-visual network to connect primary care providers with medical specialists at the UNM Health Sciences Center. Unlike most telehealth initiatives, which primarily connect patients with doctors, Project ECHO trains doctors, nurses and other clinicians in rural and underserved areas to work together to manage patients, expanding the health system's capacity to deliver high-quality chronic care to those most in need. ■

NSF funds UNM School of Engineering microsystems education program

The National Science Foundation granted UNM \$2.4 million over three years to partner with Central New Mexico Community College and Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute Advanced Technology Programs to continue the work of the Southwest Center for Microsystems Education. The center educates instructors and students about how microsystems work. The devices have applications in biomedical, homeland security, aerospace, automotive and gaming systems. ■