



# New Mexico State University Weekly Activity Report

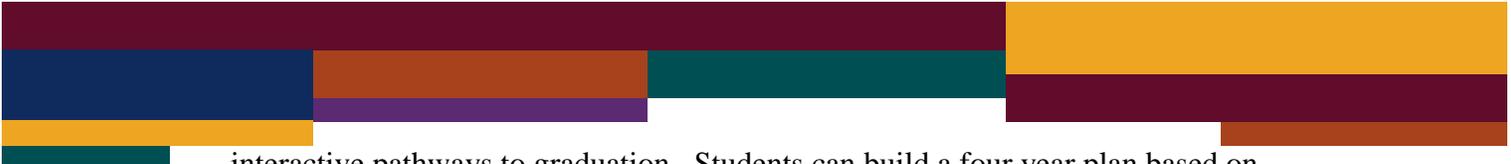
July 14 - 18, 2014

## **President Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.**

- The big event this week was the announcement of the public private partnership of the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine and NMSU. I am optimistic that this partnership will provide a range of benefits for students and faculty plus New Mexico really needs more primary care physicians. Thanks to the NMSU team who worked for several months to iron out all of the details. Credit goes to Dan Howard, Kevin Boberg, Kathy Hansen, Wayne Savage, Liz Ellis, Lisa Warren, Deans Adera and Morehead, Ben Woods and Justin Bannister. (I hope I didn't miss anyone but it was a great team effort!)
- Several have spent time this week preparing for the Regents Strategic Planning meeting on Tuesday and the Board meeting on Wednesday. I am very pleased that the Regents wish to spend a full day on discussions of the Vision 2020 plan and strategies to implement. This is strongest commitment by the Regents to strategic planning and implementation in my time at NMSU. In addition, the big issue at the Board meeting will be voting on the proposed change in admissions standards.
- The Marketing Committee, which I Chair, heard "top of the line" responses to a survey conducted by Brian Sanderoff. The survey was of local parents and their students intending to go to College this fall. The intent was in part to determine who makes the decision on where the student will attend. The parents thought they had a lot to do with the decision and the students, by about the same percentage, felt they were more in charge. The chance to get away from home was one of the major reasons the students elected to go elsewhere. When we have the final results of this survey, I will share them with all. In addition to hearing the survey results, the committee approved a \$250,000 advertising campaign directed principally to Albuquerque and Las Cruces but it also includes a good dose of social media.
- I was briefed by Glen Haubold and Fire Chief Johnny Carrillo on an AON study of our fire alarm system. As I gathered from the briefing, it is all over the place with some very modern alarms and systems and some very outdated. I have asked them to focus on the alarms in dormitory and the Greek housing area as a priority.
- I made some brief remarks to the 4-H Club annual conference held at the Las Cruces Convention Center. Naturally, I promoted their attendance at NMSU so they could experience discovery! I told the group that the 4-H Club was the first organization I ever joined. I joined the Aztec Club 66 years ago. Chairman of the Board of Regents Mike Cheney received a special recognition for his support of the Cooperative Extension Service and the 4-H program.

## **Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Dan Howard**

- At our regularly scheduled meeting, Vice President Bernadette Montoya and I discussed U.Direct, which will be available for use by students at NMSU beginning in February of 2015. U.direct can be used by students and their advisors to create



interactive pathways to graduation. Students can build a four year plan based on course prerequisites, course availability, and degree requirements. Such planning helps to ensure that students graduate in a timely fashion, and it will help NMSU better understand course demand. Dr. Montoya and I also discussed, very briefly, the Guaranteed Tuition Plan now being planned by Students Affairs and Enrollment Management, as well as Administration and Finance. The plan is almost ready for presentation to the President and me.

- At another regularly scheduled meeting, Dean Elizabeth Titus and I discussed establishing a workgroup to study a variety of compensation issues at NMSU, including: phased retirement, greater bumps in pay associated with promotion in the faculty ranks, department head differential pay, and pay for adjuncts. These are important issues, worthy of careful thought and planning.
- President Carruthers would like to conduct regular faculty and staff climate surveys at NMSU. There are a variety of ways to approach such a survey, including constructing one specifically for NMSU or using a commercially available survey and modifying it to better suit the needs of NMSU. At a meeting to discuss our options, attended by a number of stakeholders, we decided to use a commercially available product from Noel-Levitz, but modify it to better reflect issues germane to a research university.

## **Dean, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Lowell Catlett**

### **Cooperative Extension Service**

- The 4-H Youth Development Program is a flagship program of the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service. Through our 4-H programs over 55,000 New Mexico youth gain knowledge and skills in the areas of science, citizenship, and healthy living. Perhaps the largest benefits of 4-H are the critical life skills they gain. Studies have shown that 4-H youth are 2.5 times more likely to engage in civic involvement, 2 times more likely to participate in STEM programs, 4.9 times more likely to graduate from college, and half as likely to use drugs. Mike Cheney, New Mexico State University Board of Regents Chairman, had a vision for a motorcycle tour to increase awareness of the importance of 4-H youth programs and the Cooperative Extension Service to New Mexicans. As a result, we have our second annual “Ride of the 4-H Cover” motorcycle tour on August 23rd and 24th. This will be a great chance for people to have some fun and learn about the ways the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service serves our communities. Riders will have an opportunity to tour and learn about Extension activities in Dona Ana, Grant, Catron, Socorro, Lincoln, and Otero counties. A welcome reception will be held the evening of Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, for all participants at Barnett’s Las Cruces Harley-Davidson with live music. Riders will gather for a kick-off breakfast on Saturday, August 23rd, at the Dona Ana County Extension Office and travel to Silver City through historic Hillsboro. Lunch will be provided in Silver City and riders will then travel to Reserve to attend the Carton County Fair. We then will head to Socorro for dinner, programs, and a reception. Action will resume on Sunday, August 24th, when riders will head to Ruidoso and then end the day in Alamogordo, NM. To register go to <http://rideforthecllover.nmsu.edu> or call 575-646-3015.

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- The 91<sup>st</sup> State 4-H Conference was held on the NMSU campus July 14-17. Four hundred and eight 4-H members and leaders attended this year's event. 4-Her's participated in workshops, competitive life skills building events such as livestock judging, entomology, public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and more. Business meetings and elections for the 2014-2015 state 4-H officers were conducted. Elected were: Wade Stearns-President, Rhett Grant-Vice-President, Makayla Richardson – Secretary, Brett Dixon-Treasurer, Jami Maetas – Reporter, Sullivan Woodall – Song and Rec Leaders. Holding the 4-H events on campus is an excellent recruiting tool and an opportunity for the high school students to see our beautiful campus in hopes NMSU will be their college of choice.

### **Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Christa Slaton**

- Associate Dean Jeff Brown and Dr. Stefan Zollner (Physics) met with officials at Los Alamos National Labs to discuss contracts.
- Jessica Madrid (Psychology) has been awarded a New Mexico HED graduate assistantship.
- Dr. Cynthia Bejarano (Interdisciplinary Studies) received \$424,985 from the U.S. Department of Education for the CAMP program.
- Associate Dean Ken Van Winkle (Arts and Sciences) received \$74,564 from the University of New Mexico/Health Sciences Center for the Cooperative Pharmacy Education Program.

### **Dean, College of Business, Dr. James J. Hoffman**

- Dr. Ken Martin, Regents Professor, has been named the Department Head for the Finance Department. He has served as the Interim Department Head for the last year and we look forward to having him in the position permanently.
- The Assistant Development Officer position has been filled by Steven Romero, who is set to begin August 1<sup>st</sup>. Steven is a College of Business graduate who comes to us from the Office of Alumni Relations.
- Introductory meetings continue for Jim Hoffman, who met with Kathy Hansen, Director and CEO, and Scott Maloney, Senior Enterprise Advisor of the Arrowhead Center, Cheryl Harrelson, VP for Advancement, and Kristian Chervenock, Director of Office of Education Abroad this week.
- Jim Hoffman and Steve Elias attended the announcement of the new Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine. We look forward to future collaboration on this project.
- Yvonne Mendoza and Kathy Brook are working with Facilities and Services and with graduate students who will be moving in Domenici Hall soon to get keys cut for offices and other spaces.
- Comfort Ricketts (Economics), Jim Nelson and Jennifer Kreie (both in Information Systems), and Nancy Oretskin (Business Law) completed the online course development workshop offered by Instructional Innovation and Quality in June. Sherry Mills (Accounting) is enrolled in the July session.



## **Dean, College of Education, Dr. Michael Morehead**

- Met with the deans and directors for the weekly college meeting and discussed the college's relationship with the foundation. We reviewed the overhead and end of year carry forward forecasts. Additionally the team reviewed the open lines in the college and will begin discussion with department heads the future allocations of faculty lines.
- Interviewed a candidate for the position of clinical faculty in Communication Disorders.
- Discussed the Graduate Dean position with Dean Titus and several faculty who offered their input on the skills and characteristics needed by the individual selected.
- Reviewed the request from Curriculum and Instruction to hire clinical faculty for the upcoming year. Met with the department head and faculty to discuss the need and how the clinical faculty will be used.
- Discussed with Dean George Mychaskiw from the Burrell Osteopathic Medical School about the possibility of several of our programs partnering with the medical school.
- Participated in the Investment Committee review of foundation investments and discussed future investment strategies.
- Had lunch with two donors and Board of Advocate members and reviewed Board actions and potential future gifts.
- Discussed with Kevin Boberg the possible use of College of Education graduate students as interns.
- Discussed with Wayne Savage from Arrowhead the fee based billing for the space LCPS will be allocating to the College of Education to use as a clinic.

## **James O'Donnell, Associate Dean**

- Attended the Consortium for Belizean Educational Cooperation in Indianapolis.

## **Michelle Valverde, Director for Alliance and BoCES**

- Met with Rudolfo and Judith to further outline the parent engagement certificate and discuss the parent engagement conference planned for January (in conjunction with CES).
- Continued to develop a draft education model that supports student success in NM.

## **Ron Dzwienka, Program Manager for Assessment**

- Continued compiling data from the Fall/Spring Undergraduate Completers Survey and the Fall/Spring Graduate Completers Survey, from the SP14 cohort groups of graduates.
- Prepared and sent out the [2014 Principal \(Employer\) Survey from NMSU College of Education](#) to all principals.
- Compiled the NMTA Outliers SU13-SP14 Final Report (ALL Programs) for the four programs, to be added to the 2014 Data Reports.
- Continued to revise and then enter into Tk20 the October Undergraduate Completers Survey and the October Graduate Completers Survey, to be sent to 2013-14 TEP completers in the FA14 semester.



## **Advancement Team**

- Met with donor Elisa Sanchez - discussed her scholarship. She would like our help in growing it. We discussed several ideas.
- Met with Dr. Cahill – we discussed her presentation for the Thornburg Foundation
- Foundation Sponsorship – a lively conversation with Andrea, Darlene, Ashely and I. We are trying to get the basic guidelines for Sponsorships.
- Met with Brandon Eicher with GGA the consulting firm with the foundation. We had an interview I believe to gain knowledge about the preparedness of the development team for the campaign.
- Met with Research team at Foundation and went over portfolio. We spent 2 hours going through the list. We will discuss with the Dean.
- Advancement Meeting – overview from Cheryl Harrelson on changes in foundation office. She gave us our metrics which are : 100 visits in a year, 20 proposals, 6 closed
- Worked on Portfolio with Ashley to identify a strong working list for development.

## **Dean, College of Engineering, Dr. Ricardo Jacquez**

- Engineering Physics majors are now listed as a separate program in the College of Engineering. They are no longer combined with students in electrical engineering. This will make it easier for the Department of Physics to track undergraduate engineering physics majors and their path towards graduation. It will also help to allocate resources needed for this program.
- The Manufacturing Technology Engineering Center (M-TEC) helped install and calibrate the electronic systems for a vintage Oxberry Animation Stand owned by Kate Brown. Yu-Ping Tang, senior engineer, designed and sourced all of the stepper motors for the machine. Charlie Park, laboratory manager, student Caleb Sokoll, and Tang traveled to Silver City to install the equipment for the Animation Stand. This project was completed in April of 2014. In the following link, Kate Brown describes the project and M-TEC's involvement:  
<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/420383008/the-oxberry-project>
- The Biology Department at NMSU hired M-TEC to manufacture an apparatus that would aid in the separation of two different genera of fruit flies for the purpose of performing genetic research. The original design needed to be amended to make the manufacturing process as simple as possible, while keeping the functionality the same. M-TEC used many manufacturing techniques including CAMWorks software to program a Computer Numeric Control milling machine to cut the majority of the parts for this apparatus. This project was completed on July 9, 2014.

## **Dean, College of Health and Social Services, Dr. Tilahun Adera**

- The college bid a farewell to Dean Adera this week. After five years at New Mexico State University College of Health and Social Services, he accepted a position as Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri. Adera arrived in Las Cruces in 2009, and he guided the rapidly growing college that includes the Department of Health Sciences, School of Nursing and School of Social Work. In 2010, the college added a two-story annex to the Health and Social Services building. Adera was responsible for hiring many of the key



appointments in the college such as department heads, directors, associate deans and many faculty positions.

- Dr. Tina Hancock, Social Work, and Dr. Teresa Keller, Nursing met with Sloan Gibson, the acting secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs who visited the El Paso Veterans Affairs clinic Friday. According to Secretary Gibson, "This is what I would refer to as a targeted visit. I'm here because the wait times are too long. We were starting to put El Paso under a microscope earlier, particularly in the mental health space." Gibson said the El Paso VA clinic is recruiting more staff to fit the needs, specifically in mental health.
- The School of Nursing conducted the second annual immersion experience for interprofessional training. Students from nursing, CEP, family medical residence program, pharmacy and others have come together to experience what it is like to work in teams. Students have had special training experiences on campus and participated in rounds at Memorial medical Center. This even was made possible by a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to infuse gerontology into the curriculum at NMSU and to strengthen the geriatrics services in Southern New Mexico.

### **Dean, Graduate School, Dr. Loui Reyes**

No Activity to Report

### **Dean, Honors College, Dr. William Eamon**

No Activity to Report

### **Dean, University Library, Dr. Elizabeth Titus**

- As Chair of the Search Committee for the Honors College Dean, I met with the last candidate being interviewed on July 15<sup>th</sup> and also met with the search committee on July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The Library's Social Activity Committee hosted an ice cream social for all library employees on July 17.
- Mardi Mahaffy, Associate Professor, officially started in the University Library as Interim Department Head for Reference and Research Services on July 16, 2014.
- Her appointment is for the 2014-2015 academic year.

### **Associate Provost, International and Border Program, Dr. Cornell Menking**

No Activity to Report

### **Senior Vice President Administration and Finance, Angela Throneberry**

- ***The Voice Hosts Administration and Finance Semi-Annual Meeting and Appreciation Breakfast*** – The Administration and Finance *Voice* hosted the Spring in Summer 2014 Administration and Finance Semi-Annual Meeting. *The Voice* is a committee of employees from each of the Administration and Finance units who are working to increase staff engagement and support and inspire a culture of pride within the division. The meeting included a status report on the committee's current

projects, discussion on employees' experiences at NMSU, an appreciation breakfast provided by the A&F Leadership Team, presentation of awards, Massive Multi-player Thumb Wars challenge, and door prizes for 30 lucky winners. *The Voice* would like to recognize and thank all the volunteers who showed up early to help, all the employees who attended and participated in the thumb wars, and the A&F Leadership Team for their support and contributions to making the meeting a success.

- **New Mexico Environment Department (NMED): Radiation Control Bureau Inspection** – Environmental Health & Safety Radiation Safety Manager Dave Schoep accompanied an inspector from the Radiation Control Bureau as he reviewed our program compliance with the New Mexico State Radiation Protection Regulations; our Broad Scope Radioactive Materials License and the various X-Ray Certificates of Registration. The scope of the audit was wide and included a review of the many types of NMSU Radiation Safety Program written and electronic records; inspection of representative labs that are permitted for radioactive material use and labs where various analytical and medical x-rays machines are used. He also met with University Radiation Safety Committee chair Dr. Dennis Hallford. Overall, the inspection went very well and we received several compliments from the inspector about many components of the program. This week NMED issued a formal notice of compliance with no violation.
- **The NMSU INSIDER** – a free mobile app, has posted to YouTube a video of the CBS Amazing Race auditions held at the Barnes & Noble Campus Bookstore. The NMSU INSIDER has posted over 100 videos on YouTube.
- **Student Line of Credit** – the Barnes & Noble Bookstore will now offer students three weeks to qualify for the student line of credit for their book purchases. This additional week will be a big help for the students this year.
- **Pete Domenici Hall** – Under the supervision of Project Development and



Engineering (PD&E) Project Manager Jon Padilla, the Pete Domenici Hall project is nearing completion. The building exterior construction has been completed and landscaping is underway. Interior finishes are being worked on and completion is on track to meet the furniture delivery scheduled for the second week of August. Substantial completion for the Pete Domenici Hall is slated for early August.

## **Senior Vice President External Relations / Chief of Staff, Ben Woods**

No Activity to Report

## **Vice President Student Affairs / Enrollment Management, Dr. Bernadette Montoya**

- On Tuesday, Dr. Montoya led a workshop on strengths-based leadership for SAEM's SWAT (Strategic, Wise, and Accounting Technicians) Team at the NMSU Golf Course. The team of 22 fiscal and administrative staff, from all 13 Student Affairs

and Enrollment Management departments, learned the value of working to their strengths and collaborating with colleagues. We can achieve greater goals collectively than individually!

- The Vice President's Office worked with RoundUp staff to contribute content on campus services that can help students stay on track with their education to the *Survival Guide*. The RoundUp is mailing *Survival Guides* to all incoming freshmen and transfer students who will be new to NMSU this fall.
- Dr. Bernadette Montoya gave the closing address to the 2014 Rocky Mountain Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers conference, which was held in Albuquerque July 16–18. Her address covered strategies on supporting organizational change.

#### **University Admissions, Ms. Valerie Pickett**

- Over 40 prospective students and their families were on campus for visits last week. We hosted group visits from San Antonio College Upward Bound and the Pueblo of Isleta.
- Recruiters met students during the state-wide New Mexico 4-H Conference in Las Cruces and at several campuses of Central New Mexico Community College in the Albuquerque area.
- Admissions staff are still calling students who have recently been admitted to the NMSU. They are helping these students find seats in New Student Registration programs and answering any other questions they have about NMSU. NMSU is still accepting students for fall 2014.
- This week, we celebrated the upcoming academic year with two Summer Send-Off programs for incoming freshmen. Over 60 students and their families from the Albuquerque Area joined us for an Isotopes game. About 30 students and their families from Phoenix attended an Arizona Diamondbacks game.

#### **University Registrar**

- This past week, the Registrar's Office from NMSU and University of New Mexico Registrar's Office co-hosted the 38th annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Albuquerque. One hundred fifty people from Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming, representing 2-year and 4-year public and private institutions, attended the 3-day conference. NMSU attendees included Bernadette Montoya, Denise Esquibel, Hector Sanchez, John Sorrell, Kameron Peterson, Jacobo Varela, and Sylvia Castillo.

#### **Office of Student Diversity and Outreach, Ms. Christina Chavez Kelley**

- On Tuesday, July 15, Justin McHorse met with nine high school students from Isleta Pueblo and four staff members who were visiting campus as a service provided by the Isleta Pueblo Department of Education. He presented on the services offered by the American Indian Program and gave a tour of the American Indian Student Center.
- On Tuesday, July 15, Michael Ray represented NMSU and the American Indian



**Dr. Montoya delivered the closing address to RMACRAO on July 18.**



**Admissions Staff were in Albuquerque last weekend at an Isotopes game. Almost 100 students attended the Senior Send Off events in Phoenix and Albuquerque**



Program at the Jicarilla Apache Nation's Little Beaver College and Career Day in Dulce, New Mexico.

- On July 14, 16, and 17, 2014, Michael Ray conducted outreach with the Pueblos of Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Santo Domingo, Tesuque, and Zia. He met with education and higher education departments to sustain and build on current relationships that foster rising college student referrals as well as supporting their incoming and current students attending NMSU.

## **Vice President Economic Development, Dr. Kevin Boberg**

### **Audiology Clinic at Arrowhead Park Medical Academy**

- Arrowhead Park Executive Director Wayne Savage worked on issues surrounding the Audiology Clinic at Arrowhead Park Medical Academy. The Audiology Clinic, associated with the College of Education, will offer services to the public, as well as experiential learning experience for NMSU students, and directed learning opportunities for students of the Arrowhead Park Medical Academy. The Audiology Lab is yet another example of NMSU's engagement in innovative public-private partnership that directly benefits our community and student learning outcomes.

### **Indian Resource Development and Arrowhead**

- Arrowhead Center's Griselda Martinez attended a meet and greet barbeque hosted by NMSU's Indian Resource Development (IRD) Program, meeting Interim Director Dr. Gavin Clarkson and the IRD team, along with key partners the Program is looking to bring on board as it becomes more active with clients. On Monday, the discussion and participation expanded as IRD and Arrowhead staff (Ms. Martinez, Jason Koenig and Kramer Winingham) explored ways for IRD and Arrowhead to support each other's missions.

## **Vice President Research, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya**

- Vimal Chaitanya attended the APLU (Association of Public and Land Grant Universities) summer joint meeting of CRPGE (Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education) and CII (Commission on International Initiatives) in Berkeley, CA. He acted as a panelist on two sessions namely "Moving the Research Agenda Forward – Developing Your Faculty" and "Improving the Research Portfolio in a Financially Restrictive Environment". He also co-moderated a session on "Common Challenges in International Research". Cornell Menking and Mike Ferguson from NMSU also attended the meeting.
- University Budget Committee approved funding through the Equipment Renewal and Replacement (ERR) budget for FY2014 for the Core University Resources and Research Laboratory (CURRL). Funds will purchase a much needed sophisticated back scatter detector for the variable pressure scanning electron microscope. This will not only improve the research productivity but assist in student learning for NMSU as well as others such as group of summer camp students from the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science who were recently hosted at this facility.
- Pete Lammers has been appointed Associate Editor of the Journal *Algal Research* beginning July 1, 2014. He was awarded a "Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing" in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the quality of the journal.

- Pete Lammers continued his economic development initiatives by hosting three visitors from Parker Hannifan Corporation interested in algae-based commercial opportunities. Pete also met with Davin Lopez, President and CEO of MVEDA (Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance) in a VP for Economic Development hosted meeting.
- Discussions are underway with the International Border Commission for PSL to perform Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) surveys of areas along the Rio Grande. PSL is already conducting night visual observer testing for NASA in collaboration with the College of Arts & Science.
- Judy McShannon attended a two-day NIH conference that covers a wide range of topics, including current areas of research interest and clarifications on the application and review process. She and Sudha Murthy (both from Office of Research Development) also attended the National Science Foundation Grants Conference to further their assistance to faculty pursuing funding from these agencies.
- Luis Vazquez was recently elected to the Council of Representatives representing Division 45: Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race, in the American Psychological Association (APA).
- Sam Fernald hosted a meeting for New Mexico Secretary of Indian Affairs Allison, which included CES and Arrowhead to discuss water research and windmill assessment to assist tribes and pueblos in the state.

### **Vice President University Advancement / Foundation Executive Director, Ms. Cheryl Harrelson**

- The 1888 Society welcomed two new members which led to an estate gift benefiting the Fabian Garcia Agricultural Experiment Station.
- Received the following Gifts:
  - \$10,000 from a family foundation (wishing to remain anonymous) for scholarships
  - \$4,000 from the Hancock Family Foundation for the Mesquite Neighborhood Learning Center
  - \$5,000 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Mexico for the 2014 Domenici Public Policy Conference

### **Athletics Director, Dr. McKinley Boston, Jr.**

#### **Aggie Athletic Club**

- Planned and delivered a Football Success Fund event at Coach Martin's home, that drew approximately 40 donors/prospects for a great evening and an opportunity for Coach Martin to connect with new folks and for current FSF members to talk about why they invest—each of the attendees left with a gift card (generously donated by DeLaVega's, along with food for the event) and an FSF application form-- the Development Team will be following up with these donors/prospects in the near future to gauge their interest in investing in football;
- Met with the Aggie Athletic Club Board of Advisors to discuss this fiscal year's budget, plans to revamp the relationship between AAC and individual sport booster clubs, and the 2014-15 membership drive (which concluded on July 11<sup>th</sup>)—the



membership drive has generated some great energy and enthusiasm, while generating higher visibility for AAC, and has produced about 30 NEW members—activities are underway to debrief on the membership drive in order to gather information to make improvements and plans for the balance of this year and then next year’s drive, as well.

### **Associate Vice President University Communications, Maureen Howard**

- This week’s Eye on Research in the Las Cruces Sun-News featured the work of David Cowley, associate professor in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology. Researching a unique crustacean with a fossil record dating to more than 250 million years ago, the tadpole shrimp, Cowley and Ph.D. student Rebekah Horn are uncovering new discoveries about the genetic composition and how these invertebrates reproduce.
- This week’s Sunday Feature in the Las Cruces Sun-News profiled NMSU’s Clovis Science Center farm manager Aaron Scott, who comes from a line of farmers. His father instilled in him the love for the land and taking pride in his work, which is something he does every day. Scott has made it a goal to stay an active learner to help other farmers and growers.
- Assistant Athletics Director for Media Relations Tyler Dunkel visited with three media outlets in Albuquerque, the Journal, KOAT and KRQE, this week. The goal behind the meetings was to boost our coverage in Albuquerque this coming season.
- Research & Polling provided top-line results on a survey conducted among high school seniors and parents in the Las Cruces area. The results showed positive overall impressions of NMSU. The survey will be discussed at the Regents Strategic Planning meeting.

### **Assistant Vice President Government Relations, Ricardo Rel**

- The Higher Education Funding Formula Task Force met on Monday July 14 in Albuquerque. The task force added three new members to the committee that include: Regent Kevin Powers (NNMC), Regent Frank Markey (NMHU) and President John Madden (ENMU-Roswell). The task force adopted a motion to move a concept that was provided by the base subcommittee forward for review by the technical committee for further review.

#### **Upcoming Legislative Events:**

- July 21: Land Grant Committee – Tierra Amarilla
- July 23: Jobs Council – Albuquerque
  - Evaluating Proposed Measures for Job Creation: Criteria Refinement
- July 23: Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee – Los Alamos
  - Topics related to WIPP
- July 24: Behavioral Health Subcommittee – Espanola
- July 24-25: Courts, Corrections and Justice Committee – Santa Fe
- July 28: Investments & Pensions Oversight Committee
  - Education Trust Board: Management of College Savings Plans Nationally and in the State

- Feasibility of Implementing a State-Guaranteed Student Loan Program
- July 29: Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee – Santa Fe
  - Computer Coding Education
  - Cybersecurity and Data Breach
  - Broadband Telecommunications and PARCC Status
- July 31: Tobacco Settlement Revenue Oversight Committee – Albuquerque

**Director/Secretary New Mexico Department of Agriculture,  
Jeff M. Witte**

- This week I attended the New Mexico Tribal summit which included Governor Susana Martinez and the governors, presidents or chairmen of all tribes, nations and pueblos in NM. We had an opportunity to meet with individual pueblos and tribes on potential collaborations to improve agriculture on their lands. We included the cooperative extension service in this discussion and will be scheduling at least 4 follow up field days. There is a great desire among the tribes to improve agriculture production and market their products.
- Joe Gomez, who directs NMDA’s Standards and Consumer Services Division, was presented the 2014 Distinguished Service Award from the National Conference on Weights and Measures during its annual meeting this week in Detroit. Conference officials said Gomez has made “important contributions to [the field] and served as a resource for knowledge”. Joe’s leadership has helped to ensure the cornerstone of commerce: a fair marketplace for both buyer and seller in New Mexico.

