



# New Mexico State University

## Activity Report

September 23-27, 2013

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

- Sorry about the dust up with Keith Olbermann, the ESPN pundit who criticized me and our student football attendance incentives. We will keep on trying to get our students out to all events in that they have paid for most and their colleagues/friends would appreciate their support whether it is for sports, music, drama, promoting NMSU, or community service.
- I visited with Lee Rand and Barbara Brazil at the request of the Arrowhead Center regarding how to improve the commercialization of NMSU intellectual property. Lee is a venture capitalist and Barbara is the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Economic Development. While there are some promising projects underway through the Arrowhead Launch program, we will obviously need lots of help from the private sector and the State to be successful.
- I had a nice meeting with Marc Legarreta, the Chair of the Hispanic Caucus, and several of his colleagues regarding their issues and interest in promoting NMSU as a culturally diverse staff, faculty, and student body. I have asked that they drop by periodically to advise me on issues and programs.
- I have contacted a person who has been nominated for an Honorary Doctorate degree to be awarded during the December commencement ceremony. If the Regents Committee and Regents agree, and Honorary Doctorate for this person will reconfirm that NMSU is all about discovery!
- Speaking of all about discovery, I taped the introduction to our new employee training program by reiterating that NMSU is “A caring community transforming lives through discovery” and that we all play a role in the community.
- I met with Mark D’Antonio, the Dona Ana County District Attorney, who is interested in developing closer working relationships and collaborations with NMSU. I mentioned several departments where there seemed to be a good fit and ended by asking him to submit a two pager on how he viewed the collaboration. Years ago, there was an internship involving students from a forensic accounting course and the DA’s office which was very helpful to the DA and good for our students. Criminal Justice students were also mentioned as those having an interest in internships. When I receive the paper from the DA I will circulate it to the Deans.
- Dario Silva, one of our fine behavioral health counselors, has suggested that we revisit a proposal of some years ago to develop an “Aggie Code of Ethics”. I told him I thought it was a great idea but must come from the students, staff, faculty and community to be effective. Expect Dario to be knocking on your door soon with requests that all participate in this effort.
- I enjoyed visiting with the leadership of the campus Chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association and later joining the membership to deliver the Cowboy Code



of Ethics presentation. NAMA is a very active NMSU student group with good participation by faculty members and College leadership.

- I have formed an NMSU Marketing Committee which I will Chair. The objective of the Committee is to better focus all of our marketing efforts and to develop some metrics so we know what is working and what is not. I recently released \$85,000 to market NMSU to our local area in that we had spent much of our marketing efforts in the remainder of the state and out of state without much attention here.
- I was pleased to be one of the first five folks inducted into the Aztec High School Hall of Fame during their Homecoming Game this past weekend. It was my first ever Homecoming Game and I had forgotten how important high school athletics are to small towns like Aztec. I had also forgotten how cold it can be in the fall in Northern New Mexico.

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

- As usual I attended many meetings this week, some highlights of which are bulleted below. However, a real high point of the week for me was the Danny and Paula Gamboa Naming Ceremony at the Center for the Arts. To honor their children, Danny and Paula contributed money to name the full terrace on the second floor of the Center for the Arts. Danny dressed up (no shorts for this occasion) and his children could not have been more proud of their Dad and Mom. Kudos to Dean Slaton and the College of Arts and Sciences for organizing a memorable event.
- Angela Throneberry and I discussed revenue sharing models for Distance Education.
- Ricardo Rel, Ben Woods and I discussed RPSP projects for the coming legislative session.
- Kevin Boberg schooled me on southern New Mexico as a global port.
- Vimal Chaitanya helped me understand research and economic development partnership opportunities with the University of Arizona and Arizona State University.
- A meeting with the faculty of the Department of Biology was dominated by expressions of concern about our post award processes. We also discussed the need for an animal facility that can meet NIH standards for the housing of mice and rats.
- At a meeting with the Academic Deans, we discussed ideas for an Aggie Success Week that we hope to have in place for first year students prior to the beginning of the fall 2014 semester.
- Stan Rounds, Leslie Cervantes, Andy Burke and I discussed Allied Health Pathways for dual credit students and an expansion of the Aggie Shuttle route to include the Early College High School.
- Bill Eamon and I discussed recruitment of high performing students and the Honors College Speakers Series.

- Bill Mattiace described the U.S. - Mexico Joint Working Committee and the potential for greater NMSU involvement with the Committee and with Border economic development.

## **SVP Administration and Finance – Angela Throneberry**

### **Business Affairs**

- The **Bags to Benches** outreach program is nearing its end - last pickup date is October 18, 2013. The Administration and Finance department is having a competition to see who can bring in the most plastic bags which get sent to the City. For each 810 lbs, the city gets a free park bench! Look for the recycling boxes at ICT, Corbett Center, Hadley Hall, Office of Sustainability, Facilities and Services, Parking Department, Purchasing, and Environmental Health and Safety. But remember, using a reusable bag is always preferable!

### **Information Communication Technologies**

- The second phase of the NMSU e-mail system upgrade (Office 365) which began September 20, 2013 will be completed on September 27, 2013. This phase of the upgrade added new features such as Sky Drive Pro (a file storage service that allows you to share and collaborate with others), Office Web Apps (a lightweight, web based version of Excel, Word, PowerPoint, and OneNote), and Lync (instant messaging, voice, video, and online meeting service available for Windows, Mac, iOS and Android platforms). The upgrade also provide a new, easier to use, web interface for e-mail, calendars, and contacts.
- The ICT Leadership Team began work on its contribution to the Administration and Finance Strategic plan which ties directly to NMSU's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. This included the refinement and implementation specifics related to ICT. There was also work done on the development of metrics for progress and achievement tracking. This will be an ongoing process over the next few months.

### **Facilities and Services**

- **Institute for Public Policy - Hershel Zohn Theater – Branson Library Renovation and Additions**  
Last Friday FS Project Development & Engineering (PD&E) had one of the project donors visit the project site. The Yates family was here for the Retired Senator Pete Domenici, Public Policy Conference. During their visit they requested to tour the old Hershel Zohn Theatre. This project has now transitioned from the dismantling of the original building and we are now





starting to rebuild the old theater. Mr. Yates did not know the intensity of the interior remodeling of the building and was very excited about progress of project. On the addition Jayne's Corp. is forming the stem wall on the east building line of the addition.

- FS is updating the following master plans:

**Medium Voltage Site Electrical Master Plan** – NMSU Engineer Dale Harrell is overseeing the design group of BHI/Spectrum Engineers in their review of our site electrical infrastructure from the standpoint of age, reliability, along with short and long term improvements to the system. Several construction projects are already a resulted from this study and include the new medium voltage work to feed the Corbett Center Renovation and also the Undergraduate Learning Center.

**Update 2009 Water Master Plan** – Project Manager and Engineer Lucio Garcia is overseeing BHI Engineers on the updating of our 2009 Water Master Plan. This planning effort includes the recalculation of our hydraulic model of our water systems on campus with additional data and square footage demands being added to the calculations, inventory and of all of the backflow preventers tied to our domestic water system on campus to ensure cross-connection control, and updating and prioritizing the next round of water projects needed to ensure the reliability and safety of our potable water supply on campus.

**Fire Protection Master Plan** – Scott McLean with PD & E is leading the effort to select a consultant to prepare a Fire Protection Master Plan that will look at all buildings on the Las Cruces Campus first and evaluate the fire sprinkler systems, fire detection systems and standpipe systems. From this evaluation a roadmap will be created to show a prioritized approach to systems in need of work or updating. The preliminary evaluation of consultants has been completed and the top three (3) scoring firms are being brought on campus for interviews on October 8, 2013.

### **SVP External Relations / Chief of Staff – Ben Woods**

- Worked on the hotel procurement process by reaching out to several institutions that are in the midst of similar actions as well as industry leaders to discuss the concept and best practices to secure the results desired.
- Completed background work necessary in order to proceed with the next selection of Aggie Legends for the December Commencement.
- Accomplished monthly emergency planning meeting with focus on on-line training for steps to take in the event of an on campus emergency. Actions underway to release a short video to the campus community on actions to take in the event of an active shooter.

## **VP Student Affairs/Enrollment Services – Dr. Bernadette Montoya**

### **Office of the Vice President, Dr. Bernadette Montoya**

- Before an audience of about 300, Dr. Montoya welcomed new members of the Greek Community with an address about the importance of involvement in campus life. She encouraged students to set a good example for others through the work in their communities.
- Dr. Montoya welcomed about 400 prospective students and their families at the Aggie Experience program on Saturday. University Admissions hosts this event each year.
- This was a busy week for interviews: On Monday, Dr. Montoya was interviewed for the News 22 broadcast about enrollment, and on Wednesday, she discussed financial aid with Lindsey Anderson for an upcoming article in the Las Cruces Sun News.

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

- Judy Weicherding, Dual Credit Coordinator, and Valerie Pickett, Director, met with the DACC Dual Credit office and the local high school counselors to review deadlines and events for dual credit students for Spring 2014 classes.
- Delia De Leon, Associate Director, and Veronica Chavez Neuman, Director of the Albuquerque Center, traveled to Santa Fe to discuss recruitment with Tina Ludutsky-Taylor, the Director of the Santa Fe Higher Education Center.
- Recruiters continued College Day travels in Albuquerque and Phoenix, and Marissa Macias, Admissions Advisor, made a return visit to high schools in east central New Mexico. Transfer recruiters also met with prospective students at El Paso Community College.

### **Student Engagement, Dr. Terry Cook**

- Terry Cook attended the Academic Advisor Symposium on Friday, September 20. Presentation topics included Appreciative Advising and working with students with mental health concerns. Other presenters were Dr. Karen Schafer, NMSU Counseling Center; Angela Bates, NMSU Judicial Office; and Stephen Lopez, Chief of Police.
- Tutor requests for the TRiO Student Support Services Program have increased by 56% compared to this time last semester. The Program is seeing an increase in requests for tutoring and electrical, civil, aeronautics, and mechanical engineering.

### **Student Life, Dr. Michael Jasek**

- Student Accessibility Services staff participated in a collaborative meeting hosted by DACC/Services for Students with Disabilities to discuss the development of a standardized system for all NMSU campuses on September 20, 2013.
- New Member Presentation was September 24 in the Corbett Center Student Union. 116 new fraternity members and 108 new sorority



Over 200 students were presented to the Greek Community on Tuesday.

members were presented and welcomed to the NMSU Greek Community. At the event, 74 students were honored for earning a 4.0 grade point average for Spring 2013.

- Union Program Council hosted Kristoffer Koerper, NMSU Baseball team member and musician, to play his music in the CCSU Food Court area on Tuesday, September 24.

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

- The American Indian Program (AIP) hosted Eunice Cardenas of Vanguard on September 16 for her presentation *Getting the Most Out of a Career Fair and Interview Technique – Acing a Job Interview!* On September 18, Samantha Romero of Teach for America provided information on teaching opportunities in New Mexico and throughout the country.
- Chicano Programs, the Hispanic Faculty/Staff Caucus, and the Provost’s Office co-sponsored a presentation observing Hispanic Serving Institution Week on September 17, 2013. Dr. Robert Durán and Dr. Loui Reyes presented *From Hispanic-Collecting Institutions to Hispanic-Serving Institutions*.
- The first meeting of QUEER VOICES was held on September 19, 2013. QUEER VOICES is a discussion group for GLBTQ students, faculty, and staff and is sponsored by the Counseling Center and the Sexual & Gender Diversity Resource Center (SGDRC).
- The SGDRC held Safe Zone Trainings for two for Human Sexuality courses on September 23 with a total of 206 students attending the training. The SGDRC also hosted panels for two other Human Sexuality courses on September 25, 2013 for 80 students.
- Chicano Programs screened *Prejudice and Pride*, a documentary from the PBS series Latino-Americans on September 25, 2013. Director and producer John Valadez spoke to a diverse crowd regarding the film.

**Staff Highlights**

- Ms. Tinsley Hembree, Assistant Dean of Students, welcomed her husband Jordan home from his deployment from Afghanistan on Sunday, September 22.



The American Indian Program and Indian Resource Development Program co-sponsored a pre-game rally for the NMSU vs. UNM volleyball game on September 23.



Tinsley Hembree and husband Jordan.



## **Interim VP Economic Development – Dr. Kevin Boberg**

### **Arrowhead Innovation Network**

- The Arrowhead Innovation Network (AIN) Advisory Council met Monday at Arrowhead Executive Center in the Research Park. Advisory Council members present included Barbara Brazil (New Mexico Economic Development Department and Council Chair), John Freisinger (Technology Ventures Corporation), Elizabeth Mata (Hamilton, Brook, Smith & Reynolds, P.C.), Jackie Mitchell Edwards (Charles Schwab), Deborah Peacock (Peacock Myers, P.C.), Lee Rand (Sun Mountain Capital), and George Ruth (Citizens Bank of Las Cruces). NMSU President Garrey Carruthers was also present to open the meeting with remarks on NMSU’s ongoing emphasis on technology commercialization and entrepreneurship. Council members held discussions and provided recommendations on a number of AIN components, including faculty and student innovation and entrepreneurship, commercialization investment, demand pull research and development, recruitment of startup venture management teams, AIN’s Enterprise Advisor program, network promotion and outreach, research collaborations with other universities, and network sustainability.

### **Arrowhead Technology Incubator**

- The monthly meeting of the New Mexico Programming Group (NMPG) was held Thursday. The meeting focused on the basics of the Phoneygap framework, which supports smartphone application development. This month’s speaker is Antonio Arredondo, who received his bachelors in Computer Science from San Jose State University before coming to NMSU for a Master's degree. He is now working toward his Ph.D. in Computer Science at NMSU. The meeting attracted 20 participants. NMPG is a user group for programming professionals, students, and hobbyists to learn and network. Group information is available at <http://arrowheadcenter.nmsu.edu/events/new-mexico-programming-group-nmpg-2>.

### **Entrepreneurship**

- Arrowhead graduate assistant Francis Reyes and her team won congressional support for a project currently under development through the Entrepreneurship Institute. A report generated by Francis and her team helped Arrowhead client Veteran’s Office Solutions (VOS)—whose mission is to employ veterans to remanufacture government furniture—attracted the attention of Senator Udall, Senator Heinrich, and Congressman Pearce, each of whom signed a letter of support for the project. The letter will be forwarded to Eric Shinseki, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who can hopefully work toward a change in procurement practices to encourage the use of remanufactured furniture, allowing the VOS concept to be established.

### **Upcoming Innovation/Entrepreneurship Workshops**

- On October 4<sup>th</sup>, Arrowhead will sponsor a workshop, “Business Model Generation: Canvas” as part of a newly-launched speaker series featuring successful executives and entrepreneurs. The workshop will familiarize attendees with the fundamentals



of Business Model Canvas, a strategic tool to explore and shape new business ventures. The workshop presenter will be AIN Enterprise Advisor Estela Hartley, principal Innovation Strategist at E. Hartley Consulting and adjunct faculty member in the Department of Public Health Sciences at NMSU. Information is available at <http://arrowheadcenter.nmsu.edu/event/business-model-generation-canvas>

### **VP Research – Dr. Vimal Chaitanya**

- Vimal Chaitanya attended the EPSCoR State committee meeting in Albuquerque to review significant achievements of the last cycle's funding and while there also met with Mike Daugher, interim VPR of UNM and Katharine Chartrand, Director of NMC to discuss partnership opportunities in Albuquerque.
- Vimal Chaitanya visited University of Central Florida and met with VPR M.J. Soileau, Dean of Engineering Michael Georgiopolis, Interim Chair of MSE Department Kevin Coffey, Interim Chair of MAE Department C. Suryanarayana, and with MSE and AMPAC faculty members to discuss research and academic opportunities.
- New Mexico Space Grant Consortium just announced that Michael Blum, will be the keynote speaker at the Community Partnership lunch to be held on October 15, at the NM Farm and Ranch Museum. Michael is the President & Founder, Hedgeye Risk Management and a Future Virgin Galactic Astronaut. Michael will address, "What can a local community expect from investment in suborbital commercial space and when?"
- Pat Hynes has just returned from a trip at Mojave Air and Spaceport where Virgin Galactic invited future astronauts to learn about the progress of Virgin Galactic towards their move to NM and their test flight operations. She also met with Chief Executive Officer George Whitesides. Pat is also a member of the Galactic Unite Philanthropy and services on their board.
- A recently discovered comet is the object of a balloon launch that NMSU/PSL will conduct from Fort Sumner, possibly this weekend, weather permitting. Information on the comet can be found at: [http://www.space.com/22954-comet-ison-giant-nasa-balloon.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+spaceheadlines+%28SPACE.com+Headline+Feed%29](http://www.space.com/22954-comet-ison-giant-nasa-balloon.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+spaceheadlines+%28SPACE.com+Headline+Feed%29) (please note that the link works in Internet Explorer is copied and pasted ).
- The Army has awarded new efforts (three tasks) for nearly \$5M.
- A ceiling amendment was received for the recently awarded CHARCS effort.
- Several small UAS support efforts were awarded or are in final negotiations.
- Follow-on actions from the FAA UAS headquarters visit last week are underway.
- Neta Fernandez attended the Inter-Mountain University Research Administration (IMURA) conference at Texas Tech.
- Discussed with Associate VPR at UNM the plan to jointly host the next IMURA meeting.

- Discussed with ONR the definition of “lifer rate” and this will lead to a change in how NMSU has always interpreted.
- Conducted a proposal development workshop: Writing Competitive NSF Proposals.
- Supported the development of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) proposal, including extensive data collection and analysis using multiple data sources and development of commitment letter.
- Luis Vazquez and Nellie Quezada-Aragon are offering to present training and workshops in order to create an integrative collaborative culture of research for NMSU. We have already presented to a couple departments and look forward to other colleges and departments taking advantage of these offerings.
- Luis Vazquez has been invited by the Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race, to attend the 11<sup>th</sup> APA Education Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. for research ethics and training. Included as part of the conference are visits to “The Hill” to advocate on behalf of the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (GSLMA) Reauthorization of 2013, S.116/H.R. 2734. This Act would reauthorize and maintain important suicide prevention programs for States, Tribes, and college and university counseling centers.
- The research IT group have installed a new release of ARGIS, to resolve some issues with the online approval of research proposals, allowing pilot testing of this process to begin during October and submissions to begin in November. The departments of Geography and Computer Science will be the first pilot units. The new ARGIS release will also improve search performance and fix other minor issues.
- Al Rango and Sam Fernald presented to NM State-wide EPSCoR Committee in Albuquerque the successful completion of NSF EPSCoR project on New Mexico's Mountain Sources of Runoff.
- Sam Fernald visited flood damage zones of Mineral Creek, Silver Creek, and Whitewater Creek near Glenwood, NM and met with County Commissioner Bucky Allred, District Ranger Pat Morrison, from Sheriff's Office Mike Shriver and Project Manager for Arizona Water Settlement Act Darrell Allred.
- Completed paperwork to submit to HED revised expansion funding request of \$350,000 for WRRRI approved by Regents for 2014 legislative session.
- Sam Fernald remotely attended kick off meeting for Western Consortium for Watershed Analysis, Visualization, and Exploration (WC-WAVE).
- This week research proposals worth nearly \$ 700,000 were submitted and sponsored awards worth almost \$ 3 Million were received.

### **Interim VP University Advancement – Dr. Tina Byford**

- I met with the Scarborough-Linebery Foundation Advisory Board for their annual review of the financial status and investment performance of Endowment Pool regarding the Tom Linebery Chair and the Evelyn Linebery Chair. They were pleased with the returns that have been provided. We concluded the meeting with a lunch.

- I traveled to Denver, CO to meet with two prospective board member candidates as we continue to fill vacancies on the NMSU Foundation Board.
- The Naming Committee met to discuss policy clarification and review a naming opportunity request. The NMSU Foundation Finance Committee held a meeting this week to review the preliminary August 31, 2013 operating statement, and to discuss the short term investment vehicles.
- Approximately 25 development officers and staff attended the second of a series of Development Officer Training sessions this week presented by VPUA staff. Among some of the topics covered were the gift receipting to NMSU and NMSU Foundation using the E-Print system, the results and plans for handling the results of our prospect screening, and the benefits of using the Foundation Report Repository.
- Nigel Holman, Director of Annual Fund, reports that the Aggie Pride Call Center had 848 conversations with alumni last week. We continue to improve the program as our alumni expect the phone-a-thon effort each season. The callers have been doing a great job of getting donors to fulfill their gifts over the phone.
- The NMSU Foundation Planned Giving Department worked with estate representatives and the NMSU President's Associates Program to establish "The Theodore V. Nelson Memorial Endowed President's Associates Scholarship," for \$148,950.
- Kristina Martinez, Regional Advancement Officer – Central/ Northern NM made three face to face visits (one for stewardship, one to help close a Library collection gift in Roswell, and the other a discovery visit in Santa Fe with interest in creating internship opportunities for Business students). Kristina Martinez also attended Development Officer Training session.
- The College of Engineering provided a tour of their facilities and programs to the Regional Team Development Officers.
- Terra V. Winter, Director of Development, College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences has shared that the J. Gordon and Nanalie Watts Scholarship will receive an additional \$10,000 contribution. The scholarship sponsors had the opportunity to meet with the selected 2013/2014 student recipient.

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

- Dr. Boston attended off-site meetings. He attended the Division 1A Athletic Directors' Association Annual meeting in Dallas, TX. He also attended the NCAA Minority Opportunities & Interests Committee in Indianapolis, IN.

#### **Associate VP University Communications – Maureen Howard**

- For the week of September 16 - 23, news stories in both local and national media totaled 162 placements. The top story covered by the media this week was the Domenici Conference.
- This week's Eye on Research in the Las Cruces Sun-News featured the College of



Health and Social Services' new associate dean for research Joe Tomaka and his work to establish the Southwest Survey Research Center, which will provide services such as questionnaire design, sampling, data collection and statistical analysis for telephone, mail and Internet services, as well as interviewing and Spanish/English translation.

- This week's Sunday feature in the Las Cruces Sun-News profiled Aiesa Wages, a senior horticulture student and her path to New Mexico State University through a partner program at San Juan Community College. It also highlighted the hands-on experience she is getting through the Agricultural Science Center at Farmington and through internships via NMSU.
- UCOMM collaborated with the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and organized a statewide meeting this week, which included 50 participants from various New Mexico colleges and universities. The meeting focused on social media trends, strategies and tactics.
- Minerva Baumann, Director of Media Relations, is working with the Medical Centers of the Americas to coordinate a video that will showcase New Mexico State University's programs at the biomedical symposium planned for October 26. Both UTEP and Texas Tech will also provide video with highlights of their activities in the biomedical arena.
- KRWG partnered with several groups on campus to bring John Valadez, producer of the PBS series "Latino Americans," to Las Cruces. On Monday, Valadez was featured in an event at KRWG studios, which included a TV production with Q&A from the audience. The program aired later in the week. On Thursday, Valadez was featured in a public KRWG event at Good Samaritan Village in Las Cruces in which the audience was able to ask questions about the documentary series.
- UCOMM Marketing Services group continues to develop creative materials to support the "All About Discovery" campaign. Ads are running in Albuquerque and will be expanded to Las Cruces in early October.

### **Assistant VP Government Relations – Ricardo Rel**

#### **State-Related Activities**

- Judy Bosland and Vicente Vargas attended the Higher Education Funding Formula Technical Workgroup. Topics of discussion included the type of data that should be utilized for determining funding and adjusting value of degrees.
- Mr. Rel and Mr. Woods briefed the provost on the non I&G legislative requests and process.

### **Director/Secretary, NMDA - Jeff M. Witte**

- I, along with my staff, attended a national Food and Agricultural Advisory Training Council meeting in Washington, DC. The meeting focused on shaping the future of food and agriculture training across the nation. The biggest challenges facing the



future of these trainings are declining budgets, keeping busy industry and regulatory personnel engaged, and attendance support.

- The state's Emergency Operations Center continues to be activated at Level III and working on flood recovery for the state. It is approaching a three-week activation indicating the complexity and the need for a strong recovery plan for industry. Emergency Support Functions #11 continues to be engaged in this effort at many levels.
- The United States Department of Agriculture Agricultural Marketing Service agency recently awarded NMDA \$429,210 in funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. These federal funds will support six projects beginning this October and ending September 2016.
- The 2013 Eastern New Mexico State Fair runs September 30-October 5.
  - Staff will travel to Roswell to help Rio Rancho and Roswell Rotary Clubs setup the Country Store and conduct consumer promotions throughout the event.