



New Mexico State University

Weekly Activity Report

March 24-28, 2014

President Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.

- Please join the NMSU community on Wednesday, April 2 at 4:00 pm at the Convention Center to visit about the Vision 2020 plan and our proposals to the Board of Regents regarding sources and uses of revenue for the coming fiscal year. We will discuss compensation issues as well as our proposed tuition plan. There will be a reception after for all to mingle and discuss our community business.
- Several of us visited with Kara Carlisle and Robby Rodriguez from the Kellogg Foundation regarding their funding priorities. The Kellogg Foundation is a major investor in three states, including New Mexico. It is very important that we develop a relationship with them so Andrea Tawney (A.T.), among others, will be following up.
- I attended alumni events in El Paso and Denver last week. Great turnouts for both. Much Aggie pride! I am most pleased by the number of graduates from 2000 on who are now active in the Alumni chapters. Good job Tammie Campos and gang for reigniting Aggie pride throughout the land!
- While in Denver, I did a filming regarding the NMSU experience with the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative. I cited the vast amount of educational material that has been developed and posted on their website for all educators to use as well as NMSU's work with the Edge Program (an Extension Service public employee educational series that includes ethics), the CMI/Bruce Huhmann effort to develop training vignettes for New Mexico State employees, and Grace Ann Rosile's work on contrasting Native American and mainstream business ethics. I had the feeling that the Daniels Fund was anticipating continuing this very productive program. Over 25 faculty members at NMSU have served as Daniels Fellows, using their summers to develop ethics educational material.
- A.T. and I visited with Reynie Ortiz and Presley Askew, two Denver alums, regarding their assistance in fund raising for NMSU. Both are agreeable and eager to jump into the fray. Reynie is an outgoing member and Presley the incoming member of the Foundation Board.
- Many of us had a delightful evening celebrating Herb Wimberly's 80th birthday. NMSU has a few icons around and Herb is certainly one of them. The first golf professional and golf coach at NMSU, he is well known for his very positive attitude and caring behavior. It is said that Herb has never said anything bad about anyone and I can believe that.
- I want to give a shout out to David Maestas, who is finishing his term as President of ASNMSU. He has been very collegial, asks the right questions, carries the message to his fellow students, and makes very good decisions, all with a very cheerful demeanor. Great job David!



Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Dan Howard

- An ongoing issue at NMSU is support for visiting graduate students, especially students from abroad. The issue is not financial support so much as problems with Visas and finding housing for the students. Vice President for Research Vimal Chaitanya brought the issue to my attention, and we are working on solutions. Dr. Chaitanya noted that he has enjoyed tremendous support from other units of the university when it comes to accommodating visiting graduate students and visiting scholars.
- President Carruthers and I met with Robby Rodriguez and Kara Carlisle of the Kellogg Foundation to discuss Kellogg's philanthropic investments in New Mexico and how we could work together to address issues of common concern. The Kellogg Foundation currently has more than \$55 million invested in New Mexico and invests \$20 million more each year in new and ongoing projects. Kellogg invests heavily in New Mexico because it is a poor state and the investments of the foundation can have a real impact on the state. Among the priorities of the Foundation are early childhood programs, educational reforms, community food programs, dental health aid programs, and programs that lead to economic security for families.
- Allison Perez of the Educational Advisory Board (EAB) met with President Carruthers and me to discuss how EAB might better serve NMSU. Among the topics we discussed were: achieving a better understanding of efficiency measures for land-grant universities, new fundraising strategies, and strategies for increasing student retention and degree achievement.

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

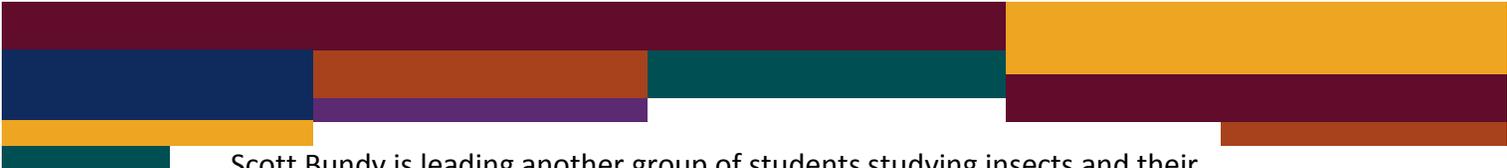
- **ACES Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences (PES)** has selected Dr. April Ulery as the first holder of the "Exemplary Teaching Professorship." The Exemplary Teaching Professorship endowment will help ensure that outstanding teaching, advising and mentoring of students by PES faculty will be both awarded and rewarded. The Exemplary Teaching Professorship will recognize the importance of quality undergraduate and graduate education to NMSU, the agricultural community, and the plant and environmental sciences professions. Income from the endowment will be used to provide resources to a PES faculty member who exemplifies excellence in teaching, advising and mentoring of NMSU students.
- **Alumnus Greg Reeves** (advisor Dr. Paul Bosland) has been named the recipient of the highly competitive and prestigious "Gates Cambridge Scholarship." The full scholarship will cover Greg's entire graduate program at the University of Cambridge, UK.
- **ACES student Connor Wagner**, PES genetics major, has been awarded a Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center Summer Undergraduate Research Internship. It is a nine-week program which will give undergraduate students opportunities to gain experience in research and mentorship.

- **PES graduate student**, James Fulton, was the winner of the 2014 NM Chile Conference poster competition. The title of his poster was “Chile Pepper Stip: A Physiological Disorder of the Desert Southwest.” As winner, he will receive funding from the NMSU Agricultural Experiment Station that he will be able to use to present his poster at any scientific conference of his choosing.
- **New Mexico Chile Pepper Institute** NuMex Easter Ornamental Chile has been named an “All-America Selections” winner. The recognition highlights the plant’s ability to flourish in different climates across the country. This is the first time any plant bred by NMSU has been named an “All-America Selections” winner. All-America Selections (AAS) is a nonprofit organization that tests new varieties of flowers and bedding plants, and then introduces the best performers as their “AAS Winners.” The organization has nearly 200 gardens in geographically diverse areas across the country where judges score the performance of the plants. ACES’s Fabian Garcia Science Center in Las Cruces became an AAS evaluation site in 2013.
- **NMSU Rodeo Team** attended the University of Arizona’s Rodeo. The men’s team and the Men’s AA came in 1st place; the women’s team came in 4th place.
- **Sierra County Extension services** is starting a **Native Landscapes Initiative** that encourages residents to plant attractive landscapes of beneficial native plants that are adapted to our harsh environment and good taste. Initiative plants are selected by the agent to meet certain requirements:
 - a. Must be Native to NM;
 - b. Must be appropriate for landscapes;
 - c. Must do well in Sierra County and withstand higher pH’s and high CaCO₃;
 - d. Must be considered Beneficial to Livestock, Wildlife, and Pollinator Insects.

Additionally, these native plants are typically more disease and insect resistant, use less water, less fertilizer, live longer, and just do better than many standard landscape plants. There are 24 active participants who signed on with the initiative. They were introduced to nine Native plants and got a crash course on water harvesting and irrigation design. Those initiative participants also received a Southwest Flower Pack (A pack of seeds to encourage residents to participate further in the initiative). The flower pack served great as a promotional piece for the initiative and for Sierra Co. Extension.

Participant interest in urban horticulture & natives was outstanding with many questions. Agent received over a dozen requests for future workshops.
- **Cooperative Extension Service** in collaboration with the NM Department of Agriculture and Farm to Table (a non-profit organization based out of Santa Fe) held the annual New Mexico Organic Farming Conference which had an attendance of more than 750 participants. The two-day conference offered a wide variety of educational sessions including: pest control, water harvesting, grazing management, vegetable production, marketing of agricultural commodities, fruit production, pollinators, small dairy production, food safety, soil salinity and fertility management. This conference is currently the agricultural conference with the largest attendance in New Mexico and possibly the southwest attracting participants from surrounding states as well.

- **Master Gardner Training.** Training of Master Gardner volunteers is currently underway in several counties in Northern New Mexico. The trainings consist of several weeks of classes in which the participants are trained by Extension Specialists, County Agents, and area horticulture experts. Upon passing the course the Master Gardner volunteers are required to provide a minimum of 30-40 hours of volunteer service in an educational capacity in projects approved by the local county agent within their respective counties. Projects include: staffing gardening hotlines, responding to horticultural inquiry emails, maintaining demonstration gardens, conducting fairs, assisting with horticultural presentations at schools, and conducting plant clinics and other class presentations. The number of volunteer hours that Master Gardeners provides annually is valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- **Curry County Cooperative Extension Service** in cooperation with Ag 50, New Mexico Sorghum Association and the Southwest Council of Agribusiness conducted a Farm Bill Program on March 25th at the Clovis Civic Center. Participants learned about the new farm bill and how provisions will affect their farm operations. During the program, they focused on commodity and crop insurance programs.
- **Curry and Roosevelt County Cooperative Extension Service** held a seminar at the Roosevelt County Fairgrounds for agriculture producers on “Managing Your No-Till System.” This included Sprayer Management and Calibration, Herbicide Options for Dryland Farming Systems and Weed and Insect Management in a No-Till System. There were from 100 to 200 attending the seminar.
- **Entomology Plant Pathology and Weed Science (EPPWS)** Dr. Scott Bundy, Associate Professor and Director of the NMSU Arthropod Collection has taken his tropical insect Ecology class to Belize over spring break. One member of the team, Helen Vessels, has created a blog for their trip. Check it out at <http://eppwsbelize.blogspot.com/> . As internet access allows, they will be giving updates from Belize on what they are doing each day.
- **ACES Departments working together:** Entomologists from EPPWS, Graeme Davis and Helen Vessels, and Extension Plant Sciences, Carol Sutherland, have been working hard putting on the many entomology outreach activities offered in Spring. Within the past month the three traveled to Socorro to judge the Entomology competition for the New Mexico Science Olympiad, held at New Mexico Tech. Graeme traveled to Anthony to talk with 800 students for their career day. A group from EPPWS helped put on the 2014 Insect Expo in Austin, TX (as part of the Entomology Society of America annual meeting). Carol, Graeme and EPPWS faculty are gearing up for the FFA Entomology contest. Another entomology outreach activity will follow in Glenwood New Mexico, and then it is back to Anthony NM for another career day talk on Entomology. All this travel does not slow down the need for Graeme to keep the ACES Arthropod Museum continuously staffed to provide tours to folks of all ages all year long.
- **Two faculty-led international programs (FLiP)** are taking place this week in Belize. Dr. Tim Ross is leading one group studying wildlife care and rehabilitation and Dr.



Scott Bundy is leading another group of students studying insects and their interactions with humans.

- **Dr. Keith Mandabach, School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management (HRTM)**, attended the Nightclub and Bar Convention and Trade Show March 24-26th in Las Vegas, NV. Twenty-five students from HRTM 420 (Club Management) class attended the conference. During the conference they received several “back of the house” tours. Students attending the conference are allowed to make industry contacts and see how clubs are actually managed. This is a yearly conference and Dr. Mandabach takes students each year to enhance his classroom teachings.
- **Dr. Janet Green, Head of HRTM**, attended the regional roundtable meeting of the Borderplex Economic Alliance on March 26 at the DACC Gadsden Center. The discussion centered on regional academic programs and projects that address current and future workforce needs for the Hospitality/Tourism/Culinary industry.
- **The National Association of County Agricultural Agents** has placed the name of Mr. Billy Dictson, retired Associate Dean and Director of Cooperative Extension, on the Hall of Fame for his 50 years of service to Extension. After retiring as Associate Dean Billy Dictson co-founded the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center and continued working with them until 2013.

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

- Lisa Bond-Maupin attended the New Student Registration planning meeting with college staff and conducted three telephone interviews for Director of Advising Center.
- Jeff Brown and members of the Shared Service Center Task Force participated in a conference call meeting with two associate vice presidents at Emory University about their shared service center system. He also attended the Research Rally for Sam Fernald.
- Arts and Sciences faculty were contacted by Jeff Brown to discuss the Provost’s deadlines for grant proposal submissions. In order to assist faculty with grant-writing, Jeff Brown met with personnel in the college and other offices to develop a project that could place a college grant-writing intern in the Office for Research Development. He also corresponded with associate deans for research at other universities about supplemental compensation requirements at their institutions.
- Charles Bruce (Physics) received \$150,000 from the US Army/Edgewood Contracting Division. Jay Misra (Computer Science) received a \$16,000 NSF supplement. Christopher Burnham and Patricia Wojahn (English) received \$19,091 from the National Writing Project. Reed Burgette (Geological Sciences) received \$14,899 from the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC), run through the Nevada Geodetic Laboratory at the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology/Nevada Seismological Laboratory, for California tectonic studies. The Astrophysical Research Consortium added \$11,113 to its 2014-15 award to Apache Point Observatory. Gary Eiceman (Chemistry & Biochemistry) received an additional \$50,000 from Northeastern University in an award that originated with the Department of



Homeland Security.

- R.J. Maratea (Criminal Justice) received the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Theory Division Best Book Award for his publication: “The Politics of the Internet: Political Claims-Making in Cyberspace and Its Effect on Modern Political Activism.” He will be recognized at the national SSSP conference in San Francisco in August, 2014. His book was published by Lexington Books in December, 2013.

Interim Dean, College of Business, Dr. Kathleen Brook

- Anthony Casaus, Jim Peach, and Kathy Brook attended the El Paso Alumni Reception at WestStar Bank, providing an opportunity to visit with a number of alums from the College of Business including event organizers Tony Ramirez and Lee Ellen Banks.
- Following up on discussions about the implementation of an online MBA program, Kathy Brook met with Susie Bussman and Sandy Johnson from Instructional Innovation and Quality to discuss the provost’s requirement that the courses in the program be subject to a Quality Matters review. We are now considering the possibility of a training program to be offered in June to interested faculty members.
- The College is busy preparing for the Business Advisory Council meeting on April 24-25 and the annual Hall of Fame banquet on April 25. Honorees at the banquet are alumnus Greg Maxwell and supporters Judy Johnson and El Paso Electric.

Dean, College of Education, Dr. Michael Morehead

Michael A. Morehead, Dean

- Dean Morehead attended and presented at a Professional Development Schools Conference during the week. His presentation described the implementation, governance and continuation of effective professional development schools. A key component of the presentation reviewed the importance of effective supervision during students’ internships. Additionally, the presentation included effective models used for communication and partnerships building.

Dr. Jim O’Donnell, Associate Dean

- On March 25, he held the weekly meeting with Dr. R. Dziwenka, Program Manager for Assessment. They are in the process of preparing several reports for the federal government regarding the teacher education programs. He was able to meet with several students regarding enrollment into graduate programs. He also began the completion of performance evaluations for staff that he supervises. On March 26, he continued the performance evaluations. He also met with Associate Dean Jim Libbin to discuss developmental coursework strategy, reviewed and revised the draft of the CoEd Advising Survey. Dr. O’Donnell reviewed progress on the upcoming federal reports. For his class, he graded papers and reviewed lecture notes for next week. On March 27, he traveled to Albuquerque to meet with financial advisors from University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico Tech to discuss the financial formula for the Education Accountability Report.



Jonathan Schwartz, Associate Dean for Research

- The Associate Dean for Research met with a community group addressing bullying in Dona Ana County to assist with funding opportunities. Dr. Schwartz worked with the College Counsel Research group on funding ideas to support grant work in the college, and met with interested parties for a grant to promote behavioral health access in the area. He also worked to connect researchers from different colleges for STEM initiatives, and held a national teleconference on funding to support the health of boys and men of color.

Gladys De Necochea, Assistant Dean for Budget & Planning

No report submitted.

Ron Dziwenka, Program Manager for Assessment

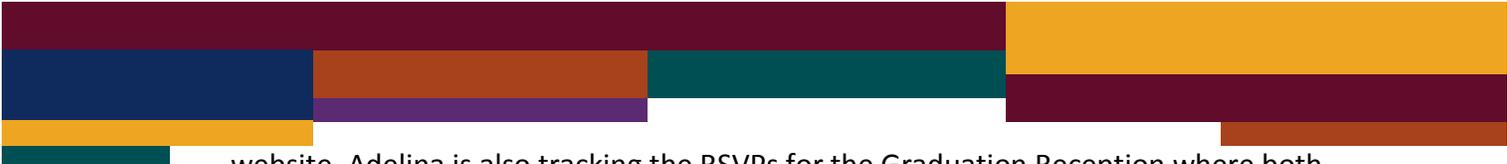
- Dr. Dziwenka had his weekly meeting with Associate Dean O'Donnell and entered a summary of the meeting into meeting log. He compiled the list of cooperating teachers and student teachers for each program, in order to send out the Cooperating Teacher/Mentor Surveys out in early April. At the Dean's request, he sent a summary of reports on the issue of boys and school suspension to researchers. Prepared for Monday's meeting to report on Ken Korn's data on NMSU COE graduates' positive impact on K-12 students for Dean Morehead. Dr. Dziwenka continued working on collecting data for the 2014 Title II Reports, & 2014 CAEP EPP report, and the 2014 PEDS Data Collection Parts A & B (all these yearly reports are due in April) and scheduled upcoming appointments with others to collect data for these reports.

Ashley Jurado, Student Program Coordinator

- Ashley sent all scholarship applications to the department heads for their review and selection of recipients for specific scholarships. She also started printing all the applications for the student affairs committee to review. She is about 50% done reviewing apps but will still need more time to complete the applications before the committee meets on April 8. Ashley also met with the Dean to discuss the end of the semester events and the Shirk Estate. Ashley will begin awarding the Shirk Scholarship in June 2014.

Adelina Rodriguez, Student Program Coordinator

- This week Adelina Rodriguez attended the NMSU Alumni Association El Paso Chapter Reception in El Paso. During this event she met with John Uxer Sr., John Uxer Jr. and his wife Alma who are all graduates of the College of Education. The general recruitment brochure was finalized and submitted to University Communication so they may begin designing it. In preparing for our upcoming graduation events, Adelina ran a cognos report to identify both undergraduate and graduate students. With the undergraduate report, she identified the top two graduates (minimum GPA 3.5) of each of our programs to be recognized for the Dean's Academic Award reception. Students will be contacted in the upcoming week by Ashley Jurado. The list of doctoral students was filtered by degree/ department and forwarded to their respective department head to verify that the students have completed graduation requirements for the Dean's Doctoral Tea. Once they are verified Adelina will send out their invitation. Both events have been added to the Event calendar on our



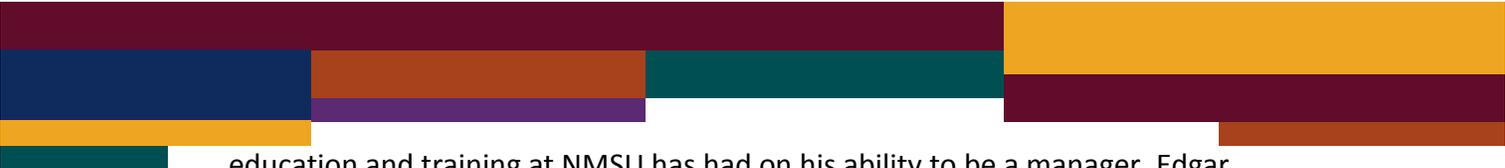
website. Adelina is also tracking the RSVPs for the Graduation Reception where both undergraduate and master students are recognized for their academic accomplishment.

Michelle Valverde, Director for Alliance & BoCES

- Dr. Valverde attended the screening of Stolen Education, a documentary written and produced by Dr. Enrique Alemán Jr, the Assistant Vice President of Student Equity and Diversity and Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy at the University of Utah. She also finalized plans for a meeting on March 31 with the Directors of the Regional Educational Cooperatives. She finalized the notes and agenda for the monthly Alliance Internal Advisory Committee meeting and finalized the interview script that will be used in conducting the annual needs assessment with the Alliance superintendents.

Dean, College of Engineering, Dr. Ricardo Jacquez

- Hope Quintana has been selected as an NMSU/Sandia National Laboratories Fellow for Fall 2014. Hope will work with Dr. Julio Martinez from the Chemical Engineering Department and Dr. Walter Paxton from Sandia National Laboratories on a project titled “Fluid Polymer Bilayer Matrices: Toward Robust and Field-Deployable Biosensors.” Hope was previously selected as the College of Engineering outstanding graduating senior in Spring 2013.
- Recent PhD Graduate Benjamin Marlin’s dissertation (adviser Dr. Hansuk Sohn) was featured by Simio LLC on their website as an example of use of their simulation software for research: <http://www.simio.com/academics/student-projects/education/20131229-New-Mexico-State-University-Investigates-The-Potential-Futures-Of-Education-In-Afghanistan/>.
- The College of Engineering received a gift of \$50K from Western Refining. The gift will support student engineering scholarships, STEM outreach, student leadership development and career awareness, engineering innovation design challenges, and continued upgrades to the Unit Operations teaching laboratory in the Department of Chemical Engineering.
- Edgar Hernandez, 2004-05 New Mexico AMP Undergraduate Research Assistant (URA) who graduated with a B.S. in Industrial Engineering at NMSU in May 2005, and his team at Electrolux in the Juarez, Mexico Factory, were named the EMS Best Practice Award Global Winner for 2013. Edgar and his team were given the opportunity to travel to Stockholm, Sweden, to participate in the Electrolux Award Day and to formally receive their award. The Awards enable Electrolux to highlight and reward outstanding performances for employees who drive changes and achieve extraordinary results in line with the Group’s strategy and goals for continuous improvement. Edgar, who is the Manufacturing Operations Manager at Small Appliances in Juarez, MX, headed up the winning project, “Materials Excellence Program (MEP) Integration into the Product Development Tool.” Edgar is responsible at the factory for the production, manufacturing, warehouse, materials, and lean and safety areas within the factory. When asked of the impact his



education and training at NMSU has had on his ability to be a manager, Edgar responded; “It gave the opportunity to earn a degree and study in a school that has pride in diversity. It gave me the tool set to be able to work with people all over the world and be sensitive and respectful toward other cultures. The NMSU IE program really helps you to be better prepared for the real life within industry.”

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

- Donna Wagner, Associate Dean for Academics in the College of Health and Social Services, has been selected to serve on a new statewide committee, the New Mexico Family Caregiver Task Force, under the direction of the Aging and Long-Term Services Department. Memorial HJM4 passed this year called for this Task Force to be convened in order to develop a state plan to address the challenges of family caregivers. Dr. Wagner is an expert in family caregiving and has been conducting research in this area for more than 30 years.
- Nursing’s Dr. Pam Schultz and FS Greg Walke met with representatives from Apple to support a Mobile Migration initiative for the Nursing program in order to achieve higher levels of excellence in student training and workforce preparedness.
- SoAHEC’s Bea Favela met with Associate Dean for research, Joe Tomaka to talk about projects that SoAHEC is currently involved in and how researchers can work more effectively with her unit. We agreed to develop an informational sheet tentatively titled, “How to Work Effectively with SoAHEC and Promotoras.” The main focus will be educating faculty on the best ways to include SoAHEC in grant application budgets.
- Nursing met with MMC Family Practice to plan the HRSA Grant Immersion project.

Dean, Graduate School, Dr. Loui Reyes

- Participation with College of Engineering international joint degree with UACH/NMSU.
- Conducted Preparing Future Faculty career development workshop series: Alternating Opportunities in Higher Education.
- Electronic Thesis & Dissertation (ETD) development.

Dean, Honors College, Dr. William Eamon

No Activity to Report

Dean, University Library, Dr. Elizabeth Titus

- The University Library received a grant from the Robert E. and Evelyn McKee Foundation for \$13,021 to purchase engineering titles published in 2014 from the Momentum Press Digital Library.
- Met with Executive VP and Provost Howard to review library promotion and tenure cases.

- Completed performance evaluations for nine direct reports (four department heads and five exempt positions).
- Did a space/facilities walk-thru in Branson Library East Floors 3 and 4 and Branson West 4th floor.
- Attended an Academic Dean's Council meeting.

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

No Activity to Report

Senior Vice President Administration and Finance, Angela Throneberry

- **NMSU Transportation & Parking** - Ophelia Watkins, Director Transportation & Parking and NMSU representative member on the City of Las Cruces Transit Advisory Board (TAB) attended the quarterly TAB meeting. The South Central Regional Transit District is working towards connecting, coordinating and filling the gaps in transit services in Sierra and Dona Ana counties. City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit expects the online service for fixed routes to be live in November. Clever Devices is the provider of the service that will make fixed route information available online by computer or smart phone. The Metropolitan Planning Organization is conducting a route timing study and expects fixed bus route maps to be available on Google maps soon.

- **Digital Signage Television Upgrade Continues** - The scheduled replacement of all Digital Signage TVs and their associated video players across the Las Cruces campus is underway. The upgrade, which includes the installation of three new TV monitors/video players at the Grants campus, is a collaboration between ASNMSU and ICT. ASNMSU provides content shown on the TVs while ICT provides technical support. Completion of the upgrade is expected by May 2014.

- **Safety Training** - FS Environmental Health & Safety trained seven Dona Ana Community College facility employees in tractor & equipment safety. Jose L. Gamon, Safety Specialist, instructed this training with assistance from Louie Hinojos, Facilities & Services Groundskeeper. Jose



also provides Forklift, Aerial Lift and Boom Truck Safety courses that are designed to impart rules and practices for a safe operation of the equipment. He utilizes video presentations, classroom exercises and "hands-on" operation. The courses are designed to expose the trainees to a safe and efficient operation of the equipment per OSHA regulations, which will ultimately lead to the elimination of hazards in the work area.



- **Code Blue Drill** - FS Fire and the Campus Health Center annually participate in a mock "Code Blue" drill which is a part of the Center's ongoing requirements for





AAAHC national health care facility accreditation. Fire and CPR drills, and pandemic specific exercises are an integral part of each department's preparedness for emergencies and disasters. The collaborative exercise was interactive and designed to allow both departments to fulfill individual roles with specific assignments. We completed our CPR drill on March 28.

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

- On campus site visit for potential Hotel Developers to occur on April 2 with RFQ responses due April 25.
- Working with Dr. Kevin Boberg in coordination of activities associated with the potential development on campus by a third party.
- Assembling team to deal with closure of Aldershot and the implications upon assets they had on campus under leasehold agreement.
- Part of a university effort being led by Maureen Howard to evaluate and propose actions to be considered for upgrades to the NMSU website.
- Action underway to assemble team to review potential gift of property to NMSU. First meeting to occur April 10.
- Implementing transition of Office of Real Estate to this unit.
- Beginning planning for Founders Day, a campus wide celebration to honor the founding of the campus, our history and the good works of those who came before us.
- Implementing the *Diez Grandes* (Big Ten) campus events concept. These ten annual campus activities will be embraced by the university and held up as great opportunities for the university community to come together.
- Beginning planning for activities to support the Military Appreciation game on November 1.
- Represented NMSU and spoke at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking.
- Represented NMSU on the annual community advocacy trip to Washington DC to meet with the federal delegation and officials at the Pentagon on behalf of WSMR.
- Supporting upcoming Board of Regents meetings now scheduled for:
 - April 3
 - April 16 (Special)
 - May 9
 - July 24/25

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

- Dr. Montoya convened the Enrollment Strike Force this week consisting of staff from Admissions, Financial Aid, the Vice President's Office, and Student Information Management. This group is examining and updating all of our enrollment practices.
- Dr. Montoya began working with the staff of the University Registrar's Office to ensure a smooth transition following the retirement of Mike Zimmerman.

- At a meeting with Leslie Cervantes, Chief of Staff for Las Cruces Public Schools, Dr. Montoya learned about ways we can be more effective in our enrollment outreach to local students and parents. NMSU is working to ensure that we are the first choice in higher education for students in the Las Cruces area. Ms. Cervantes said that LCPS welcomed closer ties with NMSU.

University Admissions, Ms. Valerie Pickett

- We continue to have a large number of campus visitors. Families from as far away as Oregon and Florida spent their spring break attending a campus visit with us. In addition to individual family visits, we hosted 10th and 11th grade students from Rio Rancho High School on a group visit.
- Megan Morrow, Regional Admissions Advisor, attended transfer events at Phoenix College and with the Arizona Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.
- Our phone calling campaign this week focused on New Mexico students who were awarded a competitive scholarship. Our advisors called over 290 students to encourage them to attend NMSU and to sign up for a New Student Orientation and Registration event.
- The Admissions staff met with University Communications to begin developing the printed recruitment materials for the class of 2015.
- Norma Palomino, Admissions Advisor, is meeting with graduate coordinators to review the current graduate admissions process. This week, Norma met with Accounting, Animal Science, and Astronomy.

University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services, Ms. Janie Merchant

- Staff from across the NMSU system attended the New Mexico Association of State Financial Aid Administrators last week in Santa Fe. One big topic was NMSU compliance with all federal regulations, even ones regulating security reporting and consumer information; our eligibility to offer federal Title IV funding depends on our compliance with all federal regulations. Other sessions were on Department of Education program reviews, social media, default prevention, customer service, and cash management.

University Registrar

- The Registrar's Office hosted a training session for NMSU Community College academic schedulers and event planning staff on Ad Astra scheduling software and Platinum Analytics. This software helps coordinate academic, event, and resource scheduling functions in an enterprise-wide system. It also optimizes academic room assignments for better space utilization and has extensive reporting capabilities.

Health and Wellness, Lori McKee

- The Aquatic Center underwent a major restoration over the spring break. Showers in all the locker rooms were refinished to increase resistance to mold and mildew; floors were refinished and the showers got new curtain rods, fixtures, and curtains. The ventilation was also enhanced to create better air flow. The restoration was funded through the



Refurbished locker rooms will greet the 200+ plus daily visitors to the Aquatics Center.



deferred maintenance budget of Facilities and Services.

Vice President Economic Development, Dr. Kevin Boberg

New Mexico Programing Group Meeting

- Arrowhead Center hosted this month's meeting of the New Mexico Programing Group. The featured speaker was Wayne Sikes, who has over 25 years of programing, development and publishing computer, arcade and console games, with over 25 game titles to his credit. Mr. Sikes discussed the changing nature of gaming platforms and new technology, and how to consider these aspects when designing new games. He shared stories of lessons learned through his own work experience and pointed out that to be successful in game design, a programmer must harness the art of technological comprehension.

Arrowhead Innovation Network Roundtable

- Arrowhead Center held its quarterly roundtable discussion in Rio Rancho, New Mexico at the Intel facility. Over 30 were in attendance from Santa Fe, Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Paul Short of the Verge Fund and Stuart Rose of the BioScience Center led discussions of funding startups and matching entrepreneurs with inventors. The purpose of these roundtables is to build a network of stakeholders (entrepreneurs, investors, technologists, technology managers and economic development practitioners) to enhance the success of Arrowhead Center's proof of concept center and to build a stronger regional innovation ecosystem.

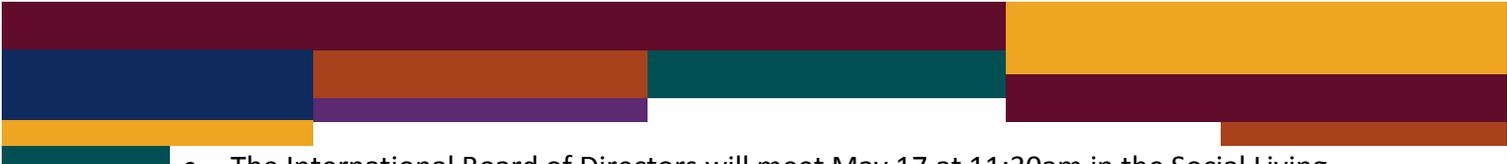
Vice President Research, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya

- Vimal Chaitanya met with Dr. Vijay Vittal, Chair Professor of Electrical Engineering and lead, smart grid research at Arizona State University (ASU) on March 28 with Jay Misra from Computer Science Department of NMSU and investigator on the recently funded NSF-CREST grant on the same subject. Vijay was apprised of the recent progress at NMSU and meaningful collaboration in smart grid between the two institutions was discussed.
- New Mexico Space Grant Consortium (NMSGC) has begun to create a statewide partnership program for Student Launch that will involve middle school, high school, community college and university teachers and faculty. The long-term intent is to create a pipeline of student and faculty capability to design, build and fly technologies from Spaceport America that may eventually be qualified to go to the International Space Station. This program is developing as a result of funding and support from NASA Space Grant, NASA Office of Education and the Space Technology Mission Directorate's Flight Opportunities Program.
- OGC is working with Auxillium Green on a licensing agreement with Shuguang Deng of Engineering.
- We worked with the University of New Mexico (UNM) on a state wide EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) proposal to the Department of Energy for \$1,761,370.

- We (VPR and VPED offices) are working with Arizona State University on a collaborative proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Icorps node funding.
- Research IT is approximately 75 percent complete with upgrades to desktop and server operating systems; vendor support for Windows XP and Windows Server 2003 will end in April.
- NM WRRRI submitted to the U.S. Geological Survey the institute's Program Evaluation Report for Fiscal Years 2008 – 2010. This evaluation report is required by the Federal Water Resources Research Act of 1984. The Secretary of the Interior will conduct an evaluation of each of the 54 water institutes nationwide and determine whether the quality and relevance of the supported water resources research warrants continued support by the federal program.
- The Management Team of the Water Science and Management program met to review applications to the program. Twenty-one applicants were accepted into the program for Fall 2014 which included 11 master's and ten doctoral students.
- About half a million dollars' worth of new proposals were submitted for external funding and a quarter million dollars' worth of awards were recorded during this week.

Interim Vice President University Advancement / Foundation Executive Director, Dr. Tina Byford

- The NMSU Foundation Investment Committee held a conference call to review the Foundation's Private Equity Portfolio and consideration of investment opportunities.
- I attended the NMSU Pioneers Spring Luncheon featuring keynote speaker, Provost Dan Howard. Sixty were in attendance. The NMSU Pioneers has existed as an organization since 1984, when it was founded by former NMSU President Gerald Thomas and others. Its membership is open to those NMSU faculty and staff (and their spouses) who have had at least 20 years of employment service at NMSU and to all former employees (and their spouses) who have retired. Currently, there are over 150 active members. The Pioneers purpose is to be beneficial to both members and the University.
- I met with the Linebery Advisory Board to report on the Tom Linebery Chair and Evelyn Linebery Chair investment performance as of February 28, 2014.
- Alumni everywhere supported the men's basketball team in the first round of the NCAA tournament last week. The NMSU Alumni Association coordinated six chapter watch parties in: El Paso, Mesilla Valley, Albuquerque, San Diego, Bay Area, and Phoenix. The Alumni Relations team posted live photos from each chapter watch party on NMSU Alumni social networks and received over 575 likes throughout the evening.
- Executive Director of the Alumni Association Tammie Campos met with Lee Golden, president of the association, to discuss upcoming meetings for the International Board of Directors, Executive Council, and Alumni Association awards committee.

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- The International Board of Directors will meet May 17 at 11:30am in the Social Living Center of Gerald Thomas Hall.
 - The NMSU Alumni Association El Paso Chapter and President Garrey Carruthers welcomed alumni and friends at a reception held at WestStar Bank in El Paso on March 25. L. Frederick Francis, executive chairman of WestStar Bank, welcomed the group. Forty-five were in attendance. Tammie Campos; Mallory Driggers, associate director; Katherine Vandertulip, senior alumni relations officer; and Colleen Richardson, alumni relations officer, supported the event.

Athletics Director, Dr. McKinley Boston, Jr.

No Activity to Report

Associate Vice President University Communications, Maureen Howard

No Activity to Report

Assistant Vice President Government Relations, Ricardo Rel

Federal-Related Activities

- Senator Udall expressed during a Senate Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing his concerns regarding the treatment of rural TV translators in upcoming spectrum auctions. Glen Cerny and Franz Joachim of KRWG had previously visited with staff in DC and explained their concerns regarding possible loss of service in New Mexico in the process. Senator Udall's office informed KRWG of the Senator's comments.

Upcoming Legislative Events:

- April 10-11 Legislative Finance Committee meeting
 - April 11: Improving child outcomes, and reducing child abuse and neglect
 - April 11: Proposed interim work plans
- April 23-24 Legislative Education Study Committee meeting
 - Schedule TBD

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

- This week we celebrated National Ag Week across New Mexico. We published an editorial across New Mexico, conducted radio interviews and participated in a special presentation at Cuba Elementary School. Bonnie Plants, who has a vegetable raising facility in McIntosh, NM, has a program that encourages third graders to grow a cabbage, provided by Bonnie plants, and submit a photograph and story about their experience. At the end of this project, Bonnie Plants Awards a \$1000 scholarship during a school assembly, and I was able to present this award to Lisette Sanchez.



- I was also invited to tour the Heritage Farm at the Albuquerque Bio Park. This facility connects agriculture to park visitors. It is a wonderful facility and provides a great opportunity to tell the agriculture story. This includes heirloom fruit trees, apple press, grape production, vegetable production and much more. The manager told me about the great advice they had received from NMSU as they were setting up the farm.