



# New Mexico State University Weekly Activity Report

August 25 – 29, 2014

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

- While the final numbers are not in, it appears that the enrollment and student credit hour production at NMSU will decline by somewhere between 4 percent and 5 percent. It seems this is the trend for most of higher education in New Mexico with rumors of more than an 8 percent decline at CNM. This will necessitate a reduction in our main campus budget of about \$4.9 million. We addressed this necessity at the President's Academic Council and agreed to collectively begin to analyze and discuss temporary and/or permanent reductions to the current year budget. It is not a time for panic but it is a time for adjustment.
- I completed the *Ride for the 4-H Clover* with Chairman Cheney and his motorcycle gang. There were over 50 riders on this trip. Bernadette Montoya joined the caravan and distributed Aggie shirts to the young 4-H members, who were very impressed. I hope all become Aggies.
- Maureen Howard, Norma Grijalva and others joined me in a meeting with Dona Ana County Manager Julia Brown and Dona Ana Spin Doctor Jess Williams to discuss their award winning website. Their secret appears to have been centralization of the site, single review of content by Jess and keeping the site fresh. Good lessons learned as we proceed with improving our web site presence.
- I had lunch with the Men's and Women's Golf teams, both winners of Western Athletic Conference titles. I continue to thank those teams who represent us well and would welcome nomination of non-athletic teams who would appreciate a thank you lunch from me!
- I had lunch with Julie Dill, a distinguished College of Business graduate, and President/CEO of Spectra Energy in Houston. Julie is one of the highest ranking and most respected women leaders in the energy industry. She and her colleagues were here to "interview" NMSU to see if they wanted to begin recruiting students from NMSU. I think they were impressed.
- There is an ongoing dialogue among many over the placement of the contemplated hotel relative to the Conference Center and the Heritage Farm. Apparently, we will need some relief from the City to wedge the Farm frontage in, if the hotel is placed on the west side of the Conference Center.
- I visited briefly with ASNMSU Senators, thanking them for their contributions to NMSU financially and expressed my interest in having them revisit a policy on the use of skateboards and bicycles on our malls. Apparently, there was once a policy on their usage which was removed from the manual.
- I joined Public Education Department Secretary Hanna Skandera, Las Cruces Public Schools Superintendent Stan Rounds, Dona Ana Community College President Renay Scott, and Director of the Bridge Stacey Allen, in a Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce sponsored discussion of education and educational issues in our county. I am always pleased by the level of cooperation that exists among all of these entities. This has not always been the case.

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- The agricultural community set a new standard for tail gating at the game on Thursday. I hope all of the Colleges can do as well. In addition, ASNMSU, thanks to the leadership of President Wes Jackson and all of the Greek community, turned out in mass for the Aggies football game. As Coach Martin said this was a very good atmosphere for a university activity and for a win. Thanks to all. “Ya done good!”

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

The Best Practices Academic Summit is only a few weeks away, and based on a meeting I had with the speakers on Tuesday of last week, the summit promises to be instructive and uplifting. Here is a preview of the talks:

- Associate Dean Jim Libbin will discuss the steps taken by the ACES to improve the math preparation of its students by offering remedial courses on the NMSU campus and packaging two courses into a single semester. By adopting a cohort model and instilling a strong sense of community, students are passing the courses at a high rate and are demonstrating enhanced success in later science courses.
- Director of Advising in the College of Arts and Sciences, Jennifer Hodges, will describe the personal contact approach being taken by the College of Arts and Sciences to help students that are facing academic sanctions. Deep interviews are helping advisors better understand the issues that stand in the way of students and academic success, and advisors are proactive in addressing these issues.
- Associate Dean Kathy Brook will discuss the importance of enforcing prerequisite requirements, something the College of Business is now doing more successfully through the automatic enforcement capabilities of Banner.
- Student Program Coordinator Adelina Rodriguez will discuss the impact of mandatory, prescriptive advising in the College of Education as well as the role played by the faculty in advising upper division students.
- Associate Dean Sonya Cooper will describe outreach efforts of the College of Engineering and the evidence that students persist better when there is some previous outreach from the Engineering College. She will also discuss the effectiveness of supplemental instruction and peer mentors.
- Associate Professor Anita Reinhardt will describe some of the approaches the School of Nursing has taken that have led to NCLEX pass rates that are far above the national average.
- Vice President Bernadette Montoya and Assistant Vice President Terry Cook will describe the new electronic tools available at NMSU to help students understand not only what courses to take, but when to take them. They will also describe the importance of early outreach efforts, aggressive interventions with regard to academics and financial aid, and early completion of required coursework in English and Math.

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

#### **Media Productions/Ag Communications**

- Dr. April Ulery, Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Laura White, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, and Drs. Barbara Chamberlin and Jeanne Gleason, Media Productions, were recently funded for their USDA Hispanic-Serving grant, “Raising the Gates: Addressing Gaps in Students' Understanding of Math and Chemistry in the Animal and Plant Sciences.” The purpose of this project is to improve



students' understanding of chemistry and math content in an agricultural context using interactive learning tools and animations. For their current project, "Retaining Students and Supporting Instruction in Science-Intensive Undergraduate Programs through Innovative Media," they created a variety of learning tools to help students understand prerequisite math and science concepts needed in soil, plant and environmental science classes, expose them to USDA careers, and build confidence in their abilities. Although both projects focus on supporting student mastery of math concepts underlying agricultural science, the new project focuses specifically on chemistry-related topics.

#### **Los Lunas Agricultural Experiment Station**

- Chile pepper enthusiasts from throughout New Mexico attended Chile Field Day at the Los Lunas Agricultural Science Center on Friday, August 22. Approximately 70 participants were on hand to listen to some of the latest research on chile production and cultivar selection. Information was also provided on the Chile Pepper Institute and the new NM Chile Certification program. The program concluded with a chile roasting demonstration and tasting; participants were given the opportunity to compare the heat and flavor of several popular chile cultivars, including 'Big Jim,' 'Joe E. Parker,' 'Sandia,' 'Espanola Improved' and the New Mexico landrace 'Chimayo.'

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

No Activity to Report

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

- Jim Hoffman and Anthony Casaus started the week off in San Jose, California to attend the NMSU Alumni Bay Area Annual Chile Roast. It was a great event where our alumni were able to have a taste of home during chile harvest season.
- Jim Hoffman and Anthony Casaus attended the Las Cruces Chamber Education Membership Update Luncheon at the Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum.
- Kathy Brook participated in a planning session with Provost Dan Howard for the summit on best practices for student success on September 24 and for a student success summit at UNM to which NMSU has been invited on September 3. The idea of both meetings is to share our successes about improving retention and student performance.
- Sara Patricolo and Kathy Brook spent about three hours in Domenici Hall on August 29, inspecting the furniture for damage that might have occurred in shipment or while construction was being completed. They also observed several GA spaces that need to have telephone and internet access added. While there is much cleaning to be done before people move in, the building is shaping up fast and has some very nice spaces with high interior windows that provide natural light to spaces that don't have exterior windows. The building has a number of classrooms ranging from the theater space which seats about 185 with more seats in the balcony and the El Paso Electric classroom with about 80 seats to rooms for 8 to 30 students.

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

**Michael A. Morehead, Dean**

- Welcomed and congratulated the Head Start Program affiliated with the college on the renewal of the grant. This program serves over 250 children in Dona Ana County. The Director



Amanda Gibson and her staff did an excellent job responding to the new guidelines and changing several key components of the program so the grant would be renewed.

- Interviewed two Associate Dean candidates this week for the Burrell School of Osteopathic Medicine discussing the integration of education and professional development into the model.
- Met with several faculty to finalize the grant proposal to Resound to assist in supporting the Audiology clinic at the new Medical Academy, additionally the committee finalized the funding for the program for the first year.
- Met with Dr. Mychaskiw to discuss future partnerships with the Burrell School and planned a future meeting with key department heads to discuss potential collaboration.
- Met with a subcommittee of the Bridge of Southern NM to discuss support for teachers and ways to recognize teachers in our county for the outstanding work they do.
- Had lunch with two amazing donors—Drs. Anne and Roberto Gallegos, they now have four scholarships which they and or their family and friends have established.
- Welcomed Kelley Coffeen, our Advancement Officer, to the college and participated in a reception in her honor.

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

- This semester, in addition to the many international undergraduates, the Industrial Engineering Department has students doing semester and year-long study abroad programs from Spain, Germany and Brazil. Such students give our regular undergraduates a unique exposure and add an international perspective to our undergraduate courses.
- Reyed Shawabkeh (NMSU chemical engineering alum, Ph.D. '98) and his former adviser Chemical engineering Department Head David Rockstraw have been funded by King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) for a study entitled, “Development of selective catalyst for conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to formic acid” in the amount of SAR 1,816,000 (\$484,163). Shawabkeh will serve as the principle investigator, while Rockstraw is named as an external project consultant.
- Chemical Engineering Professor Shuguang Deng was co-author of a proposal to the U. S. Department of Energy for “Sorbet-based Oxygen Production” that has been selected for award in response to the “Novel Crosscutting Research and Development to Support Advanced Energy Systems” announcement. This project will be led by the University of Wyoming Research Corp. (Western Research Institute), with New Mexico State University and Arizona State University serving as the participating members. NMSU’s proposed budget is \$200,000 for 24 months.
- The Engineering New Mexico Resource Network has collaborated with Intel Corporation to host the first fall semester Innovation Pop-Up workshop and Aggie Innovation Engineering Challenge, which is scheduled for August 28 and September 18. The Pop-up workshop will introduce students and faculty to applications and programming knowledge of the new Galileo development board. Teams of 3 individuals will be formed and given 3 weeks to create a new product and “Pitch your Design” to a team of judges from Intel on September 18. Intel has provided Asus Memo tablets as prizes for the winning team. Some 37 students have registered for the workshop and challenge.
- The Engineering New Mexico Resource Network completed an Android App professional development short course. Participants in the course included entrepreneurs, business owners and technology professionals who have ideas to create business-based mobile applications. Participants learned how to publish apps and were shown how to monetize their Android App



in the Google Play store. The short course was taught by Rolfe Sassenfeld, assistant professor of engineering technology.

- Dean Jacquez visited eight sections of the newly established Engineering 100 class, speaking to more than 260 freshmen engineering students. He presented them with challenge coins and encouraged them to achieve their engineering educational goals. He welcomed them to NMSU and the College of Engineering and spoke to them about their engineering education as a means for them to invent their future and how engineering is discovery.

### **Interim Dean, College of Health and Social Services, Dr. Donna Wagner**

- Business Manager, Aida Lopez, attended the 56th National Council of University Research Administrators conference in Washington DC. During the round table discussions with other university business directors around the country, she picked up some problem-solving strategies which she is sharing with the CHSS staff; one of which has already been adopted in the college and others are under discussion.
- Bea Favela, Southern Area Health Education Center (SoAHEC) Director presented Your Heart, Your Health Training for Community Health Workers/Promotoras. This was to pilot a newly developed curriculum in partnership with NM DOH-Office of Border Health, Hidalgo Medical Services in Silver City and SoAHEC.
- The Department of Public Health Sciences is collaborating with Southern New Mexico Family Medicine Residency Program at Memorial Medical Center to offer medical residents the opportunity to earn a graduate health certificate in public health with a concentration in community health or health administration, management, and policy.
- Energy Conservation and Electrical Safety presentations were held by SoAHEC's Bea Favela in Sunland Park and Chaparral in partnership with La Clinica de Familia.

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

No Activity to Report

### **Dean, Honors College, Dr. Miriam Chaiken**

- Reviewed and edited latest drafts of Fulbright Applications for Arthur Tillbrook (Korea) and Damaris Lewis (Cote d'Ivoire).
- Reviewed drafts of final MA papers for Frannie Cochrane and Brittany Porter (Anthropology).
- Communicated with all past and present Honors College faculty about potential courses for spring schedule. Worked with Valerie Torres, our Administrative Assistant, to begin building spring 2015 schedule. I met with several faculty who had courses they wanted to offer to discuss strategies and focus.
- Met with the two faculty who have joint appointments in the Honors College and their academic departments (Isabella Quintana and Judith Carmona) to check in with them and discuss their status, professional productivity, and potential teaching in the Honors College. We discussed ways that I can support them in their professional development, including contributing an evaluation letter for their annual performance reviews.
- Met with Amy Baccei (Office of Housing and Residence Life) and our two Community Assistants Hannah Hopper and Justin Steigley who oversee our Honors Residence hall in Garrett-Rhodes-Hamiel Hall. We discussed the students living in the residence hall and potential programming activities in the residence hall. We have organized study session blocks in the Honors College so



that students in our living/learning community utilize the space in the College as well as their residence hall.

- Had two meetings in the office for Advancement to discuss fundraising activities and scholarships. My meeting with Cheryl Harrelson focused on identifying new strategies for the Honors College development activities. The meeting with Diane Calhoun focused primarily on existing scholarships and endowments and opportunities for future activities.
- Began working on the plans, schedule, funding requests and logistics for the spring university speaker. We hope to bring author Sherman Alexie to campus in March or April.
- Met briefly with Deb Widger about our upcoming program for Presidential Scholars.
- Began planning a workshop for our juniors and seniors who are hoping to apply for graduate school. We have apparently not held similar events in the past so we will have one very soon to help those working on grad applications now, and will develop additional strategies for this type of professional development in the future.
- On Friday I participated in a legal deposition as an expert witness.

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

- Attended with April Anaya, the library's development officer, a memorial service for Barbara Funkhauser, a longtime friend of NMSU Library at St. James Episcopal Church in Mesilla Park, NM.
- Met with the Library Promotion and Tenure Committee. For the 2014-2015 academic year, Theresa Westbrook has been selected to be Chair and Liz Miller will be Vice-Chair.
- Briefly met with representatives from First Light and showed them the Library's project which will provide group study rooms, a presentation room and doctoral research study carrels on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Zuhl Library. Construction is almost completed.

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

For the first time, IBP combined the orientation of the different international students arriving on campus simultaneously – exchange students (59 new), international students (212 new), and intensive English students (60 new). Despite their different needs, it proved to be a more efficient way to orient them, as well as an exciting opportunity for the students from 49 different countries to meet one another. It was a dramatic sight to see the standing-room-only crowd in Corbett Auditorium (see photo).

#### **International Student and Scholar Services**

- ISSS completed arrival paperwork for 212 new students - 116 graduates and 96 undergraduates. This is down slightly from a final count of 226 last year.  
Of notable mention:
- Over 50 Brazilians now study at NMSU as part of a non-degree undergraduate program known as the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program.
- One new Fulbright scholar - Manzamasso Hodjo from Togo, W. Africa, a Masters student studying Ag Economics.
- Two new Organization of American States scholars - Martin Pertab from Guyana, a Masters student studying Economics, and Beverly Supersaad, from Student. Kitts and Nevis, a Masters student in Education.

#### **Office of Education Abroad**

- OEA welcomed a record number 59 new exchange students.

- With the enthusiastic commitment of new DACC President Renay Scott, OEA will host its first Study Abroad Fair at DACC on Tuesday, September 2. The event will be at the East campus, Student Resource Center from 10:00 to 2:00 pm and will include lunch.
- OEA will also host its regular Fall Study Abroad Fair at the NMSU Corbett Center Student Union on Wednesday, September 3 from 10:00 to 2:00 pm.
- OEA hosted its first ever “Welcome Back” event for students returning to NMSU after having studied abroad last year. Multiple students, faculty members, and international clubs made presentations, including an excellent reverse culture shock presentation by Dr. Eric Morgan.

**Confucius Institute**

- The Confucius Institute received three additional teachers this week. Classes begin in Albuquerque next week, including the institute’s first off-campus dual enrollment program with Cottonwood Preparatory Academy.

**Center for English Language Programs**

- Current total CELP enrollment is 157 – 89 of them studying intensive English (60 new students from 8 countries, and 29 returning students) and 68 of them enrolled in SPCD 110/470, which includes some Brazilians and exchange students. Note that SPCD 110/470 is the only for-credit course CELP continues to teach.
- CELP tested 60 new students from 8 countries for placement into its intensive English program on August 19th. An additional 49 admitted students were tested for placement into for-credit courses -- SPCD 110 or SPCD 111G (undergraduate) and SPCD 110 or SPCD 470 (graduate).
- Thanks to the Athletics Department for donating 14 tickets to participants in the Go Yachay Program (Ecuador) to Thursday’s opening football game. This was their first experience with American football, and they were very excited to join in the fun.

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

- **The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Mesilla Valley Amateur** – Hosted by the NMSU Golf Course on August 23-24, this is the largest amateur golf event in New Mexico. The Sun Country Section PGA Professional National Championship followed on August 25-26 which saw three area golf professionals qualify for the National finals to be held in Philadelphia next June. This week, the NMSU Golf Course plays host to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Cowboys for Cancer Fundraiser with more than 65 four person teams competing in the two shotgun starts. Teams will compete for a variety of prizes with the biggest winner being charity.

- **Project Development and Engineering (PD&E) in action** – The picture to the right shows the Sanitary Sewer line replacement project at Skeen Hall. The project was implemented to replace the main sanitary sewer line providing service to Skeen Hall that had failed. The project design and construction was completed August 20<sup>th</sup> and the turf is scheduled to be restored on Friday August 29, 2014.



(Left) Also underway is the installation of a 24” diameter domestic water line on the east side of Sam Steele Way from Well 17 to Well 10 is scheduled to be completed in early September.

(Right) The remodeling of Suite 132 of the Health and Social Services building



enhances the delivery of quality graduate and undergraduate education by upgrades that support new educational technologies. These technologies include high-fidelity simulation models, additional video and audio capacity, dedicated space for the practice of telemedicine and telehealth as well as room for research and practice with technologies that offer non-pharmacological treatment for migraines, sleep problems and mood disorders.

Demolition at Hardman Hall continues in order to make way for the Hardman and Jacobs



Undergraduate Learning Center. The center portion of Hardman will remain to become updated active learning classrooms above and below. The steel is being separated from the concrete in order to recycle both materials, thus contributing to the sustainability efforts. The building is slated to receive a USGBC LEED Silver certification or above.

- **Busy Start for Campus Dining Services** – While participating in the Las Cruces Palooza event on August 26<sup>th</sup>, over 30 applicants were recruited for the Sodexo Student Board of Directors. Also that day, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Bistro in the Fulton Center hosted the Coaches Luncheon for the first time with Bistro cuisine and Aggie décor. August 27<sup>th</sup> was the first cultural event, “Taste of Italy” in the Taos Restaurant, complete with Italian music, décor, and cuisine. Sodexo reaffirmed its commitment to NMSU school spirit by hosting the “Taos Tailgate Party,” serving New Mexico food in multiple concession locations, and kicking off the first Victory Club football reception in The 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Bistro The “Taos Tailgate Party” includes a competition among Housing students where each building competes by floors to have the most attendance to both Taos and the football games to win a free pizza party!

## **Special Advisor to the President, Ben Woods**

No Activity to Report

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

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

- Dr. Montoya held a Meet & Greet with new staff on Wednesday, August 27. Morgan Busch of Campus Activities, Lorraine Arvizu of ASNMSU, Candice Gilbert of Military and Veteran’s Program, and Jennifer Pelletier of the Admissions Office were in attendance.
- Dr. Montoya and Loretta Campolla worked on NCAA certification this week. This process verifies that student athletes meet NCAA eligibility requirements. As part of this process, Ms. Campolla meets weekly with the Athletic Director for Compliance, Athletics Academic Program, and the Faculty Athletic Representative.
- Dr. Montoya is working with Jonique Sais and Joseph Molinas, both SAEM employees, as interns in the Masters in Higher Education Administration program. She looks forward to working with them on exciting projects that will benefit NMSU. Dr. Montoya is also mentoring Dr. Michele Schuster of the Biology Department for the Advancing Leaders Program.



Morgan Busch, Lorraine Arvizu, Candice Gilbert, Bernadette Montoya, and Jennifer Pelletier (left to right) at a new staff Meet and Greet for SAEM.

- SAEM began a Program Review process this week with the first meeting of the review team for the Dean of Students Office program on Wednesday, August 27. Dr. Montoya thanked Dean of Students Dr. Michael Jasek and the review team for volunteering to be the first office to go through the program review. Details are on the SAEM website at [studentaffairs.nmsu.edu](http://studentaffairs.nmsu.edu).
- Eight staff members participated helped increase SAEM knowledge about student learning and assessment by participating in a reading series that was facilitated by Hector Sanchez (Registrar's Office) and Michael Ray (American Indian Program). The series featured *Learning is not a Sprint* and *Building a Culture of Evidence*, two books that are foundational for co-curricular assessment. Participating staff felt that reading the books was worthwhile and that the discussion among colleagues was especially helpful.

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

- The undergraduate Viewbook was mailed out to over 20,000 high schools seniors in New Mexico, Colorado, California, Arizona, and El Paso.
- Admission Advisors delivered our new recruitment materials to high schools in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Espanola, Hatch, Truth or Consequences, and Las Cruces this week.
- Admissions Advisors attended college programs at Del Norte High School, Hope Christian High School, and the University of New Mexico. An application day for seniors was held at Las Montañas High School in Las Cruces.

### **University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services, Ms. Janie Merchant**

- In August, University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services began using the Blackboard magnetic card reader to track student visits to the Financial Aid Office. The program has been working flawlessly, and this new method of checking students into the office will greatly improve our efficiency in how we work with our students.

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

- NMSU Career Services Student Employment Fair was held on August 27th at the Corbett Center Student Union. Students learned how to apply for positions through Aggie Career Manager and met with staff from offices on campus that are currently hiring.

### **Student Diversity Programs**

- On Monday, August 18, Laura Gutiérrez Spencer led a presentation entitled "Small Talk and Intercultural Communication" to over 300 international students as part of their orientation. International students were coached in cultural skills to increase their ease with the NMSU community as part of their process of discovery at NMSU.
- Chicano Programs set up a bilingual help desk in the lobby of Educational Services the first week of classes in August to provide maps and general information to new students and their parents.
- Black Programs had a Welcome Back Reception on August 26. About 150 students attended, and faculty and staff came to support the event. The NMSU Gospel Choir performed two songs at the event.
- The Black Student Association had their annual game night on August 27. About 55 students attended the mixer, which included students from other campus organizations.



Last week, the American Indian Program held its annual New and Returning Student Welcome Reception



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

### **New Mexico Programming Group Meeting**

- On Thursday evening, Arrowhead Center hosted this month's meeting of the New Mexico Programming Group (NMPG). This month's featured speaker was Taylor Burgett, co-founder of ByteWare, an Arrowhead start-up business that develops custom apps for Android and iOS devices. Mr. Burgett discussed monetization of apps and shared success stories related to the monetization of ByteWare apps. This marked the first NMPG meeting of the 2014-2015 academic year.

### **Studio G Networking Hours**

- On Friday afternoon, Studio G held networking hours from 2 -3. Current Studio G members as well as prospective student entrepreneurs seeking to learn about Studio G and its Disciplined Entrepreneurship program.

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

- Vimal Chaitanya met with the Founding Dean and Chief Academic Officer of Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine at New Mexico State University to discuss future research interactions with NMSU faculty engaged in health related research and the need for access to clinical labs and animal facilities. Vimal also met with Dr. Carol Brenner interviewing for the position of Associate Dean of Research and discussed both short term and long-term research collaboration potential between the School and NMSU.
- Luis Vazquez attended the American Psychological Association (APA) Convention in Washington, D.C. from August 6-9, 2014. He presented several mentoring and research awards for Division 45, The Society for the Psychological Study of Culture, Ethnicity and Race. He attended several sessions regarding National Institute of Health (NIH) initiatives and qualitative research that he will be sharing with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) members, who will be holding their semester retreat at Holy Cross on August 27, 2014. The IRB members will be reviewing current federal policies, receive training on reviewing human subjects' research protocols and the currently developed IRB Handbook.
- The Research IT released the new web presence of the Office of the Vice President for Research (<http://research.nmsu.edu>), using the university's revised web theme, look and feel. A particular effort was made to improve the efficiency of the site for users with direct links to many resources regularly used by researchers on every page. In addition, NMSUResearch is active on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NMSUResearch>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/NMSUResearch>), highlighting the university's many and varied research activities.
- NM WRRI announced the availability of its Student Water Research Grant Program. Twelve grants of up to \$6,000 each will be awarded to undergraduate and graduate students involved in water-related research throughout the state. Funding for the grants was made available through the New Mexico State Legislature earlier this year.
- U.S. Senator Udall visited NM Space Grant on Thursday, August 28. While here the Senator watched a demonstration of the flight capabilities of a remotely operated Quadcopter with data acquisition system onboard. The senator visited with seven NMSU students and one DACC Aerospace faculty member who presented their work on projects that are funded by NM Space Grant.



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

- Received \$118,000 to fund the “Buck” and Evelyn Waid Academic Scholarship.
- Received \$25,000 to fund the Colonel Elwood J. “Buck” Waid Endowed Scholarship in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- VP Harrelson continues visits with local Foundation Board members from Las Cruces and El Paso area.

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

- The new synthetic turf project at Aggie Memorial Stadium was completed on Monday afternoon. The football team was able to have their first practice on the new field on Tuesday, three days before the season opener against Cal Poly. The turf was made possible through Stan Fulton’s very generous donation.
- We want to thank the New Mexico Department of Agriculture for their partnership with our football home opener against Cal Poly. They provided a great tailgating environment for all to enjoy and learn about our New Mexico products
- We had our first Coach’s Luncheon of the football season. The luncheon was very well attended with an overflow of people in the outside patio area. Coach Martin addressed the crowd and spoke on the team and fall camp

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

- This week’s Eye on Research in the Las Cruces Sun-News highlighted Andrew Giesler, a graduate student in civil engineering, who with his team and under the direction of Brad Weldon, assistant professor of civil engineering, are testing ultra-high performance concrete bridge girders on a large scale to aid the development of bridge design procedures. This research could lead to a variety of improvements to the state’s infrastructure.
- Congratulations to the Special Production Unit for their first HD production on August 28 when the Aggies won against Cal-Poly. With the new HD equipment and new infrastructure at the stadium, all the advance work and preparations paid off so the crew could deliver a quality broadcast. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with this first game!
- The University Communications team has also been busy supporting the upcoming Project Discovery event, which is scheduled for September 19. This week an interview with Tim Ketelaar promoting the event aired on KRWG-TV’s Newsmakers Program. In addition, we reached out to Derrickson Moore at the Las Cruces Sun-News, who included the event in an article published on August 17. We are in the process of booking appearances on El Paso TV stations and radio interviews. The creative team also developed print ads, posters, postcards and the web team helped with a web site.
- Our staff photographer, Darren Phillips, has been working with the athletics media relations team to take new head shots for all sports. This week he is completing 500 head shots for student-athletes, coaches and administrators. Thank you Darren!

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

- The HED steering committee met on Friday, August 29 and received three I&G funding formula options. The options varied by the type of award levels for completed student credit hours and award (degrees and certificates) levels. The steering committee asked subcommittee to review all three options and to recommend one option at the next meeting of the steering committee. All three options show a positive increase for NMSU-Las Cruces that varied from

2.3 percent to 2.5 percent increases, however the amounts will also vary on the new funding that is available and how much funding is redistributed from the base.

- Aggie Saltman submitted to the Senator Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, its comment on the Higher Education Affordability Act.
- Senator Tom Udall visited the NASA Space Grant program at NMSU on August 28.
- Upcoming Legislative Activities
  - September 2-3 – Economic and Rural Development Committee – Taos
  - September 3 – Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force – Santa Fe
  - September 4-5 – Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee – Las Cruces
    - Welcome by President
    - State Private Equity Investing for Technology Commercialization
      - President, Steve Moise, Brian Birk (Sun Mountain Capital)
    - New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
      - Sam Fernald
    - NMSU Smart Grid Research
      - Enrico Pontelli
      - Satish Ranade
    - NMSU STEM-E Diversity Presentation
      - Enrico Pontelli
      - Marie Bochert
      - Susan Brown
    - Uranium Abatement in Drinking Water
      - Antonio Lara
  - September 4-5 – Water and Natural Resources Committee – Artesia
  - September 15 – Jobs Council – Las Cruces
  - September 16-17 – Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee – Carlsbad
    - Russell Hardy to testify

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

- NMDA hosted NMSU's second annual Agriculture Day on Thursday, August 28. There were over 40 booths and many people from the community attended this event. Staff from NMSU Athletics Department and I handed out sponsor awards at half time. The event's great success was due to the collaboration efforts of the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Services, NMSU Athletics, and NMDA.
- The California Food & Agriculture Secretary, Karen Ross, and I placed a bet before the game between our NMSU Aggies against the CalPoly Mustangs. The bet was a basket of locally grown items from New Mexico against Californian grown items, it looks like we will be enjoying some of California's special treats thanks to the Aggie win!



- NMDA staff participated in the Arizona Pecan Growers Conference in Tucson, AZ. Staff presented information on the pecan weevil and pecan nut casebearer in New Mexico.
- ENI staff issued phytosanitary documentation that aided in the export of onion seed to Pakistan, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Thailand. Additionally staff aided in the export of four containers of pecans to Viet Nam and pasture grass seed to Mexico.

### **Chief, NMSU Police, Stephen Lopez**

- A Traffic Safety Blitz was started on Monday, August 25 to address traffic problems by motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. This is a multi-agency effort covering streets on and around the Las Cruces and Dona Ana Central campuses.
- An effort to rein in improperly operated golf carts on the Las Cruces campus is being planned. A targeted enforcement effort is being planned for the next couple of weeks.
- The new 911 system for the NMSU Las Cruces and Dona Ana campuses has been fully deployed, replacing an old Erikson proprietary system. The new system will allow for the eventual receiving of cellphone-based 911 calls directly into the NMSU Emergency Dispatch Center. The new system is identical to the one currently in use by the NM State Police, and is also the same system the Mesilla Valley Regional Dispatch Authority will be deploying when they move into their new building in June 2015. This will allow the dispatch centers in the region to improve the exchange of 911 call information during emergencies.
- An effort to standardize security guards/officers throughout the NMSU system is underway. This is a cooperative effort with all of the campuses to establish common core training requirements, certification requirements, background checks, incident reporting, communications, and capabilities. The efforts for the next two weeks are to identify security concerns, goals, and desired directions with each of the community college presidents. Following that will be mapping of pathways to reach the desired outcomes over the upcoming months. The NMSU Police Department has already committed to hosting an annual training series each summer for existing security personnel, as well as a basic security officer academy for newly hired personnel. This will be an expansion of the training program that has already been hosted by the Police Department for the past 3 years.