



# New Mexico State University

## Weekly Activity Report

March 3 - 7, 2014

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

- I spent the first three days of the week on annual leave attending a Conference for folks serving as Directors for companies. While the subjects were directed toward for profit companies, there were some takeaways I think can be applied to NMSU. Presenters made a big point about having a strategic plan and making sure that the plan and progress on the plan was discussed at every Board meeting. Succession planning, which we are trying to implement at NMSU, is very important, requires investment in educational programs, and should also be discussed on a regular basis. In corporate America, they too must decide whether to promote from within or have an external search. They claim much greater success if the CEO position is filled from within. Lastly, in terms of compliance, there was an emphasis on making sure “your employees feel free to tell you when things are going wrong”. Also much talk about “big data” but that was over my head!
- I attended the Las Cruces Forum where Bill Allen, the President and CEO of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, discussed a movement underway by some group to have the city/county establish a minimum wage rate at \$10.00 plus. There was an attempt to change the New Mexico minimum wage in this past legislature but it did not make it through the process. He indicated that President Obama was now requiring a higher minimum wage for new federal contracts. I think the minimum wage will be adjusted upward soon but prefer it be done at the State level and not jurisdiction by jurisdiction.
- Regents Mitchell and Cheney joined me in a meeting with the Governor regarding funding for NMSU. We were promoting her signature on items important to NMSU, including the 1.5% appropriation for faculty/staff salary increases. We did demonstrate that salaries at NMSU are considerably below UNM. She expressed some concern about “add on’s”, the appropriations added to the back of the bill by legislators trying to help out universities and/or expressing what they believe the university should be investing in. NMSU had \$717,000 of add on’s. I greatly appreciate the participation of Regents Mitchell and Cheney in our Las Cruces meeting and Regent Pino in some meetings we had with the LFC, DFA, and the Governor’s office last week.
- I will leave Wednesday afternoon for the WAC basketball tournament, a WAC Conference Presidents meeting where we will undoubtedly discuss sportsmanship and “storming the court” issues. In addition, I will be doing some fund raising while in town but not in the casinos.




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

- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, more than 80 faculty and staff members gathered in Corbett Center for a Student Success Training Session that was organized by my office (a big thanks to Kim Rumford and the Education Advisory Board). The first part of the session focused on the removal of barriers to timely graduation. Good advising and prescriptive degree maps emerged as key factors that enhanced student success and timely graduation. Other practices that enhance student degree completion are: aggressive interventions with students that step off the degree completion pathway; contacting students who do not re-enroll in a timely fashion; and, contacting students who are close to degree completion but have dropped out for a semester or more.
- The second part of the training focused on retention of first year students and the importance of having good early warning systems in place. Faculty participation is key to early intervention programs, and it is critically important to obtain faculty buy-in. Other best practices include: taking attendance and intervening with students who miss two or more classes; involving community assistants in outreach to students with attendance problems; and providing signals on Canvas to students who are at risk. The training session ended with an overview of financial aid practices that often impede student success. Before breaking up, however, ACES Associate Dean Jim Libbin reported on the initiative in ACES to provide accelerated developmental math courses to its students using a cohort mode. The model has worked very well and has led to significant decreases in D, F, and W rates in gateway courses, such as Biology 111.
- The next Student Success Training Session will occur in September of 2014 and will focus on best practices that have been implemented on the NMSU campus.

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

- Jesse Jim, Tribal Extension 4-H Agent with ACES Cooperative Extension Service, gave a presentation on Community Gardens during the Child Food Summit at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, New Mexico. The summit is part of the NM Appleseed program which is a nonprofit dedicated to finding systemic solutions to poverty which include Afterschool Meals Program, Summer Food Service Program and Summer Food Fellowship [www.nmappleseed.org](http://www.nmappleseed.org). The purpose is to bring awareness to communities about traditional ways of living and eating healthy through using modern ways to advance those issues in our school and tribal policies and community gardening. There is further discussion of collaboration and networking on community engagement with farming projects.
- Cooperative Extension's Southwest Border Food Safety & Defense Center, along with NMDA will conduct a Playas Series II Exercise, "Cascading Events". The exercise will focus on the State's response to the cascading effects of a severe weather incident impact on transportation, livestock, feed and the commercial food supply chain. The March event will help test and validate certain response and recovery



procedures of New Mexico's developing Emergency Support Function. Kelly Hamilton, NMDA, said the purpose of the exercise is to prepare public sector and private sector critical infrastructure stakeholders in a "whole community" environment. Strengths, gaps and challenges in New Mexico's prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery capabilities in the wake of a natural, technological or human-caused event, will be discovered and documented to help focus New Mexico's future preparation activities.

- ACES Collegiate FFA has taken 15 members to T or C and will take 15 members to Carrizozo to assist with the New Mexico FFA Career Development Event invitational. These members assist with putting on the contests that give High School FFA members the opportunity to master skills that they have learned in the classroom. When the members are not helping with the contests they are visiting with High School students encouraging them to consider NMSU and the College of ACES for their choice for further education.
- KTSM Channel 9 did a news segment on our NM Shrimp Co. on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to a unique partnership between ACES and NMSU and a businessman, the dream of fresh shrimp from the desert has come true. Tracy said, "The shrimp is farm raised product that has no antibiotics, we know it's safe and we know it's fresh". Local restaurants are interested in purchasing the shrimp.
- Regional Economic Development Planning Targets Rural Areas in Northwest New Mexico Strategic Partnerships will Provide Economic Development Assistance (March 5<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque) USDA Rural Development State Director Terry Brunner and Dr. Michael Patrick, of ACES Cooperative Extension Service completed today the first set of Stronger Economies Together (SET) program meetings in northwest New Mexico. The SET program was established to provide training and technical assistance to rural counties seeking to build up existing regional development efforts. The SET program project is a collaborative initiative between NMSU and USDA Rural Development. The SET program helps communities work together to develop and implement a regional economic development strategy. Four years ago the initial SET programs in the southwest and the northeast areas of New Mexico were the first to be provided assistance through the program. The new northwest New Mexico SET region encompasses an area from Ramah, New Mexico through McKinley, Cibola and San Juan counties including the Navajo Nation. This area has long been known as "The Trail of the Ancients." The first set of planning meetings was held March 4<sup>th</sup> in Shiprock, in Zuni and Grants on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The largest web presence in the NMSU system belongs to the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Science, managed by Media Productions/Ag Communications (<http://aces.nmsu.edu/>). Last week, it was successfully migrated to a new, more secure server and the transition was completed to NMSU's new branded web templates, complete with the slogan "All About Discovery!" The web site is popular with users from across the state because it provides practical resources from the Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H and Youth Development, as well as research findings from the Agricultural Experiment Station. Web resources for prospective and current students have also been upgraded.

- ACEs Extension Plant Sciences hosted the annual Western Pecan Growers Association conference March 2-4<sup>th</sup> at the Hotel Encanto. The conference brings in more than 400 growers to Las Cruces to talk about issues affecting production. Among other educational talks Growers discussed protecting their crops from insects and marketing efforts.

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

No Report Submitted

### **Interim Dean, College of Business, Dr. Kathleen Brook**

- I attended the Wells Fargo check presentation and reception at Arrowhead Center on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The contribution to NMSU included support for the Domenici conference, the Business Advisory Council, the College of Business Hall of Fame banquet. Wells Fargo has also provided support for a named professorship in the College and has partnered with the College on an economic outlook conference.
- Department heads Pat Gavin, Rick Adkisson, Steve Elias and I have met to allocate doctoral GA space in Domenici Hall.
- Vicente Vargas and Ricardo Rel from NMSU's Office of Government Relations provided an excellent briefing to Liz Ellis, Steve Elias, Rick Adkisson and me concerning the NM legislative session outcomes.
- I worked with the department heads to identify someone to serve on the Community Development Council for NM Department of Finance and Administration. The Council is responsible for reviewing applications for community development block grants in the state.
- Assistant Dean Anthony Casaus and Accounting and Information Systems Department Head Kevin Melendrez attended a development conference sponsored by AACSB International and will be sharing insights with the rest of the college. Kevin Melendrez made a presentation on development from a department head perspective.
- The College of Business had representation from professional advisors, department heads, and deans at the EAB presentation on Hardwiring Student Success. We were pleased to note that we have implemented some of the practices that other institutions have found to be productive and at the same time we found suggestions for new approaches to student success.
- Applications for the 2014 Daniels Fund Ethics Fellowships are now online at <http://business.nmsu.edu/programs-centers/daniels-ethics/fellowships>.
- I attended the Model UN fund-raiser featuring former UN special rapporteur, Dr. Jorge Bustamante. In recent years the college has had students participating in the Model UN program.



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

### **Michael A. Morehead, Dean**


- Dean Michael Morehead met with Provost Howard to discuss promotion and tenure decisions for the college. During the review the provost pointed out a couple of issues he felt the college should review. It was our intention to begin review our P&T guidelines this spring and through next year, his comments will be included in future discussions of college and departmental P&T. Searches continue in the college and we should begin reviewing the foundation candidates and the EMD candidates this week and begin interviews in the near future. Dean Morehead worked with Drs. Kaye and Christman with Mongolian delegation that included the president of MSUE and three faculty and administrators. The dialogue included the review of the MOU and future visits including an educational summit that will be held in Las Cruces in the spring of 2015. The delegation concluded with a dinner at Bill and Dr. Salas Provance's home which was attended by the provost. Ashley and the Dean met with Brenda Porter to determine her interest serving on the Board of Advocates, and she has agreed to serve. We finalized plans with Cornell Menking and International programs to submit a statement of interest with Ecuador to offer a Master's degree with TESOL concentration. Dean Morehead was debriefed by Jim Barentine from CES and Michelle Valverde and Jon Schwartz about the Alliance workshop for rural districts on assessment, common core implementation and end of course exams. Dean Morehead met with several Board of Advocate members to discuss college issues, fundraising and the Cornerstone Award. Dean Morehead also met with Stan Rounds and Leslie Cervantes of LCPS to discuss the modifications for the space at the Allied Early College High School; this was caused by the increase in the Audiology lab size.

### **Dr. Jim O'Donnell, Associate Dean**

- Dr. Jim O'Donnell recently returned from Belize the last week of February. The trip was very productive in observing the four student teachers. He met with their Belizean supervisor who offered high praise for the student teachers. Dr. O'Donnell was able to negotiate that the next group of student teachers would join the teaching seminar held for new Belizean teachers. It is similar to the induction workshops offered to U.S.A. beginning teachers. He plans to meet with the President of Sacred Heart Junior College in Indianapolis for the summer annual COBEC Conference to finalize the MOU. He has continued to work on the CAEP accreditation process. Dr. O'Donnell also taught a project MOVEMOS seminar at Hermosa Heights Elementary School, and participated in the faculty performance evaluation review with the department of HPDR.

### **Jonathan Schwartz, Associate Dean for Research**

- Dr. Jonathan Schwartz met with the College Counsel Research Group to discuss the grant initiatives for the College. He also met with Stan Rounds to discuss the Allied Health Early College High School and our partnerships. Dr. Schwartz facilitated the Alliance internal board meeting, and assisted in planning the Alliance meeting for



superintendents. Dr. Schwartz conducted a College wide grant club meeting and worked on a number of individual grants with the principal investigators.

**Gladys De Necochea, Assistant Dean for Budget & Planning**

- Dr. Gladys De Necochea coordinated the preparation of proposed budget requests to be submitted by all Academic Department Heads. She facilitated a meeting with the Department Heads to guide the review of proposed funding requests and to establish the collective funding priorities that are to be submitted in support of the College of Education Strategic Plan. She also continues to provide leadership to the ongoing planning of the sustainability program initiatives to be offered in commemoration of Earth Day events to be scheduled in April 2014.

**Juanita Hannan, Director for Education Research & Budgeting**


- Dr. Juanita Hannan presented about the Distance Education program to the Mongolian Delegation. She assisted Dr. Anita Hernandez with revision of budget proposal to Penn State, and worked with Annette Flores from A&S to determine the status of BAS students and what classes we need to offer for summer and fall semester. Dr. Hannan communicated with Sylvia Parra from Region XIX about the possibility of transitioning their students to a second pathway -- a BA, non-licensure in ECED. She also worked with Brenda Brown from International Programs to set up the test for the Virtual Symposium on Action Research. She met with Koomi Kim and Judith Franzak to establish a plan related to the administration of their grant, and also with Dawn Gonzales for a preliminary discussion on the budget cycle and second quarter distribution of IDC to departments. Dr. Hannan reviewed the Distance Education summer and fall schedule and made recommendations to C&I and CEP departments. She's currently working on the preparation of I & G budget for fiscal year 2015, and monitoring the paper work and electronic transactions including financial and human resources.

**Ron Dziwenka, Program Manager for Assessment**

- Dr. Ron Dziwenka, is continuing to compile, read, categorize (& managing folders of) articles & academic papers on various issues in education. He has continued working on the NMTA test score reports for the AY2014 Data Reports to Program Coordinators (due in the summer). He will be working on summaries of Tk20 advantages for Students, Faculty and Administrators, and sent them to Program Coordinators currently using Tk20. He has met with Program Coordinators, and began compiling data to prepare and send out the Cooperating Teacher-Mentor Surveys for SP14. Dr. Dziwenka worked with our Tk20 Program Consultant on how to most efficiently expand upon use of student portfolios in Tk20 by EDLT faculty and the ECED Program (which will be models for our other programs going forward).

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

- The College of Engineering hosted a faculty-led Pop-up class in the Aggie Innovation Space on mobile app development. Registration was limited to 20 participants and filled immediately, with a waiting list for a second offering. Pop-up classes are a new non-credit offering through the Aggie Innovation Space to jump-start faculty,



student, and staff expertise in a particular area to foster basic creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. A series of pop-up classes are planned by faculty throughout the Spring 2014 semester.

- New Mexico AMP undergraduate research assistant, Rodrigo Rodriguez, is co-author on the following peer reviewed publication:
  - Gen Chen, **R. Rodriguez**, L. Fei, Y. Xu, S. Deng, S. Smirnov, H. M. Luo, “A facile hydrothermal route to iron (III) oxide with conductive additives as composite anode for lithium ion batteries.” *Journal of Power Sources (in press 2014)*.
- Six New Mexico AMP undergraduate researchers attended the AAS/NSF Emerging Researchers Nation Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in Washington, D.C. The following undergraduate students presented their research at the conference:
  - **Amber Medina**, First Place Poster, “Electron Ion Equilibrium and Shock Precursors in the Northeast Limb of the Cygnus loop.”
  - **Javier Garcia Mendoza**, First Place Poster, “Intersection Traffic Safety: Red Light Violation Analysis.”
  - **Jannette Torres** Second Place Poster, “The Non-Parametric Data Analyses for Observational Before-and-After Studies of the Speeding Violations Data.”
  - **Christina Villa**, “Properties of Plastic-Cellulosic Composite Through Simulation Techniques Using Accellrys Materials Studio 6.1.”
  - **Anita Martinez**, “Ergonomics Analysis of Innovative Sustainable PACE Vehicle.”
  - **Michael Carlock**, “Polypropylene-Cellulose Nanocrystal Composites.
- The College of Engineering hosted the New Mexico Southwest Regional Science & Engineering Fair. Approximately 130 student exhibitors, grades 6-12, showed their science and engineering projects. Forty-six juniors and seniors will move on to the State Fair in Socorro, NM, and two state winners will progress to the Intel International Fair in Los Angeles, CA. Volunteers from engineering included 100 faculty, staff, and students who served as judges and members of the support team. Awards included \$4,400 in scholarships, \$600 cash, tablets and calculators, and plaques made available by over 25 sponsors. The “wow point” of the day was seeing the outstanding projects and the research completed by the exhibitors.
- Patricia A. Sullivan, New Mexico State University College of Engineering assistant dean, was awarded Woman of Influence in Education for 2014 by “Albuquerque Business First.” She is among 30 honorees who have been deemed as “New Mexico’s top women leaders . . . shaping New Mexico’s economy and showing leadership in times of change.” Albuquerque Business First’s 10<sup>th</sup> annual Women of Influence awards ceremony recognized some of the most powerful and innovative women in New Mexico. These women come from diverse fields, and their journeys show that they are experts in the art of transforming challenges into opportunities. Sullivan was recognized in the education category.



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

- Public Health Sciences' Dr. Joe Gladstone was featured in an article about The PhD Project. The project aims to address the challenge of Native Americans studying business. Participants have embarked on what they expect to be a career-long effort to inject Native ways and thinking into classroom materials, activities and curriculum. Their goal is far-reaching and game-changing: to greatly increase the ranks of Native Americans majoring in and teaching business.
- Associate Dean Joe Tomaka met with Dr. Leah Whigham, Director of the Paso del Norte Institute for Health Living this week. The IHL is a Paso del Norte Health Foundation funded collaboration between UTEP, University of Texas-Houston School of Public Health, Texas Tech University, and the Paul Foster School of Medicine that anticipates providing "leadership and innovative approaches to support regional community efforts to promote proper nutrition, healthy eating behaviors, and physical activity, including advocacy and technical assistance for effective programs and public policies."
- Dr. Susan Cardenas, Public Health Sciences, was invited to join the review team for the *American Journal of Sexuality Education*.
- Dr. Tomaka met with Jennifer Wright and Mike Hill of the Paso Del Norte Information Exchange to discuss a possible survey research project to assess awareness and acceptance of the Health Information Exchange currently and following a 6-month public relations campaign designed to increase awareness/acceptance.
- Nursing's Dr. Gina Fullbright traveled this week to San Francisco, CA to attend the Contraceptive Technology Conference.
- DNP student, Christie Cogill, successfully presented her proposal defense this week.

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

- Collaboration with IBP and College of Education with Ecuadorian Master TESOL international initiative.
- Attended the EAB Hardwiring Student Success: Removing Barriers to Timely Graduation training.
- Conducted professional development workshop: How to Survive Graduate School.
- Addressed institution-wide graduate issues through the graduate education policy alignment committee meetings: graduate school, financial aid, admission, international border programs and registrars.

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

- Dr. Eamon met with prospective honors thesis students guiding them on how to proceed with their honors thesis.
- Yvonne Flores and Valerie Torres attended a "Conference for Professional Women"
- Dr. Eamon met with a prospective incoming freshman honors student and their parents from Tucson, AZ.



- Dr. Andersen and Dr. Eamon met with Ricardo Rel to discuss Legislative updates.
- Dr. Andersen met with prospective students regarding applying for the Honors College scholarship.

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

- A library group met with Ben Woods to discuss the digitization of historical documents of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents meeting minutes and agendas. We will be working on this project over the next several months.
- All library department heads met with the Dean to discuss the Library's Organizational Restructuring Task Force Report and its recommendations.
- The Dean attended a joint meeting of the University Teaching Council and the University Classroom Committee to hear a guest speaker who spoke about her experiences with creating and teaching in active learning classrooms at the University of Minnesota.
- Met with Provost Howard regarding Dean of the Honors College Search. As Dean of the Library, I have been appointed to chair this search.

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

- **James McDonough We C.A.R.E Award.** A&F is currently seeking nominations for the annual We C.A.R.E. Award established in 2002. The award recognizes employees for consistently delivering good service to our various customers and helping them achieve excellence in their work. The selected employee will be recognized at the Administration and Finance Semi-Annual Employee Meetings on May 6 and 7<sup>th</sup>.
- **Fire Department attends 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Campus Fire Safety, Security & Risk Management Conference & Expo.** FS Fire Deputy Chief Louis Huber and Fire Chief Johnny Carrillo traveled to Columbus, Ohio to attend the conference. The keynote speaker was Kristina Anderson, shooting victim from the April 16, 2007 attack at Virginia Tech, who gave a very powerful personal account on her recollection of the events that occurred.
- **CIO represents NMSU at CHECS board meeting.** Norma Grijalva represented NMSU at the New Mexico Council for Higher Education Computing/Communication Services (CHECS) board meeting held in Albuquerque. Members of CHECS, a non-profit organization made up of CIOs from institutes of higher education within the state, regularly meet to discuss issues that impact technology in New Mexico, such as the expansion of high speed networks and resource sharing. A recent example of the benefit of the CHECs collaboration is the significant cost savings that were realized after a group of higher education institutions consolidated their purchase of the Adobe product suite.
- **Sodexo Annual Review.** As part of our annual planning process, the Sodexo team presented their dining services annual plan to A&F and Auxiliary Services administration. The annual plan serves as a road map for the coming year.
- **Facilities Operations Management Team met with the Society of Automotive Engineers, SAE, Mini Baja Club.** The meeting was to identify an area on campus

where they can test their vehicle. The work being performed by this student organization in the College of Engineering is very impressive. They will be surveying sites on NMSU land east of the Golf Course to be used to prepare their vehicle for this year's competition.

- **Golf Course Irrigation project.** Progress continues to move forward and the irrigation contractor is now working on Hole #8.
- **PSL Roof.** The roofing contractor is on-site at the PSL building (Anderson Hall) removing the ballasting rock from the existing roofs. Materials which were delayed by the northeast winter storm are arriving daily.
- **Parking Lot 34.** The Grounds shop completed planting Pecan trees around Parking Lot 34 located east of Aggie Memorial Stadium. The shop is currently working on Xeriscaping the southeast corner of Lot 34 by the intersection of Wells and Triviz. The anticipated start date is April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Electrical Distribution System Master Plan.** Facilities and Services MEP personnel have been participating in the Electrical Distribution System Master plan review. The focus of the review this week was to identify campus buildings that should be on the turbine circuit so a plan can be generated to make the necessary infrastructure modifications.

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

No significant/change in actions to report.

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


- The three finalists for the President of Doña Ana Community College visited Las Cruces this week for day-long interviews.
- Dr. Montoya spoke Saturday at the Trio Day of Service. She addressed the crowd about her personal experiences in pursuing her education and what prompted her educational choices. This year, TRiO participants, painted seats on the northeast side of Aggie Memorial Stadium with the help of NMSU Athletics and the Office of Facilities Services.



From Left to right: Tony Marin, Director of Student Affairs; Bernadette Montoya, VP of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; James Hall, Associate Athletic Director; Jordan Banegas, Student Regent; and Provost Howard celebrated TRiO Day of Service.



Students and staff from TRiO programs spent the TRiO National Day of Service freshening up paint at Aggie Memorial Stadium.

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- Dr. Montoya convened the Lottery Brain Trust to discuss implementation of Senate Bill 347 at NMSU for this semester and the upcoming academic year. We are preparing communications to the campus community and students about what will happen after the Governor signs the bill. Thanks to Professor Jim Peach; Anna Price, Associate Vice President of Budget/Controller; Brian Atwood, Bursar; Janie Merchant, Director of Financial Aid; Ricardo Rel, Assistant Vice President of Government Relations; and Jeremy Witte, ASNMSU Director of Legislative Affairs, for all their input on this issue.

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

- At the end of February, Financial Aid staff and Student Information Management successfully imported the first set of student FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) information into Banner for the 2014–2015 aid year. Because state and federal regulations change annually, this involves weeks of effort and goes well beyond ensuring that data imports accurately.
- The first four data loads from the Department of Education’s FAFSA system included files for almost 10,000 current and incoming students across all campuses; about 2,500 of these files had to be matched manually to existing student records or were assigned an Aggie ID, in the case of incoming students. This extra work required about 80 staff hours and was completed by the five financial aid processors.
- Student waivers are now being posted on the Financial Aid section of myNMSU as part of financial aid packages. This allows students to receive the most accurate, timely, and transparent information about the value of their education.

**University Registrar, Mr. Mike Zimmerman**

- Jacobo Varela, Director of Military and Veteran Programs, attended the annual Council of College and Military Educators conference in Savannah, Georgia. Best practices and new initiatives for working with veterans students were discussed, as well as changes in federal legislation that affect educational benefits.
- MVP participated in the Military and Veterans Affairs committee of the Chamber of Commerce meeting at White Sands Missile Range to discuss the current state of WSMR and upcoming military/veteran events.
- MVP presented an overview of our services at the Retired Military Officers Association at the Las Cruces Convention Center. It was a well-received presentation and provided several new leads for potential donors.

**Student Engagement, Dr. Terry Cook**

- In February, Marissa Macias, Cross Campus Advisor, concluded a round of meetings with academic colleges. To effectively serve students, she is becoming familiar with college-specific advising rules and what referral process she should use when helping students in each college.
- The Cross Campus Advisor presented to the Associate Deans Advisory Council about the Aggie Capstone Graduation Challenge (ACGC). ACGC is making progress on bringing back students who stepped out prior to graduating. One of our first students is a returning student from Spring 2009 and is only 13 credits from a Bachelor’s degree. She is set to graduate in Fall 2014.

## Student Life, Dr. Michael Jasek Dean of Students

- Dr. Jasek, along with Melody Munson McGee and Ben Gabriel attended and presented a program on establishing a culture of evidence at New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference in Albuquerque.
- While in Albuquerque, Dr. Jasek stopped at UNM to meet with their new Dean of Students. The Deans discussed the scope of the two offices.
- Trudy Luken, Director of Student Accessibility Services, attended an Advisor Workshop titled Soldiers and Students. She also hosted a table at the DACC–NMSU Transfer Reception.
- Campus Activities hosted the Adult Swim Funhouse on Friday. Although Thursday's opening was closed due to wind, about 1,300 students went through the funhouse on Friday. Over 40 NMSU students were hired to work the event. Bruce Vandevender, who served as the coordinating host, was told several times by students, "Thank you for having this."
- On Thursday, Panhellenic Council hosted an education presentation for women that focused on eating disorders. Angella Anderson, Counseling Psychologist from the Counseling Center, and Tinsley Hembree, Assistant Dean of Students, presented the program.
- Angela Bates, Assistant Dean of Students, is working with a group of student conduct administrators to create a clear infographic outlining the overlap and differences of the federal laws related to Violence Against Women's Act, Clery ACT, Campus SaVE, and Title IX.



One student described the funhouse as "weird, in a good way, but weird. I REALLY like it."

## Health and Wellness, Ms. Lori McKee

- NMSU Outdoor Recreation completed a trip to Taos, New Mexico on February 28–March 1. The Outdoor Recreation program is piloting a student leadership program this year; next year, students in this program will plan and lead trips for NMSU.



Three members of the Outdoor Rec trip take a photo at the Taos ski area. Over half of the students attending were international students.



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

### **2014 Paso Del Norte Venture Competition and Expo**

- Four students and two professional teams from Arrowhead Center participated in the 2014 Paso Del Norte Venture Competition and Expo, a regional competition held in El Paso. On Thursday, professional teams presented their business ideas and the student teams pitched their business ideas at the competition on Friday. Top finishers move to the final rounds on Saturday for a chance to win \$10,000 and additional services to help start up their promising business idea. Winners of the competition are invited to UT Austin's McCombs School of Business Venture Labs Investment Competition, with the chance to win \$100,000 and services for their start-up venture.

### **Innoventure and Wells Fargo**

- On Thursday, Wells Fargo Bank presented \$45,750 to the university in support of NMSU programs. During the presentation two former Innoventure students spoke about their experience as students at NMSU and how their participation in Innoventure made a significant impact on their lives. “Innoventure solidified my decision to come to NMSU” shared student speaker, Juliann Lamb, who is currently a freshman at NMSU studying Criminal Justice. Wells Fargo was motivated to donate funds because of NMSU programs like Innoventure and the President’s Associates Scholars.

### **StartupBus Seattle**

- Tuesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, Arrowhead Center was taken over by the participants of StartupBus Seattle. Las Cruces marked the second stop for StartupBus Seattle as they made their way from Seattle to South by Southwest ([SXSW 2014](#)) entrepreneurship event held in Austin, TX. The StartupBus is a national three day competition in which top entrepreneurs from all around North America build and develop a business during the 72 hour bus trip. Buses from seven different cities around the continent converge in Texas for an epic 200-person competition. Arrowhead Center offered work space and resources for the StartupBus Seattle teams and hosted a public reception. Each team had a chance to practice their business pitch and receive feedback during the reception.


### **Studio G/Alumni Incubator**

- Studio G client, Byteware launched their second app on Apple’s iTunes Store. Their new app is called No Throw, a free app that allows users to discreetly report illegal dump sites to local government agencies in Doña Ana County, NM. The app integrates with the user’s phone camera to capture photos of illegal dump sites, then tags the GPS location of the site and prepares a submission form that conveniently reports illegal dump sites to local authorities. No Throw was designed in cooperation with the Doña Ana County Illegal Dumping Partnership Program. More information can be found online.



## Vice President Research, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya

- Vimal Chaitanya attended the third annual conference of the National Academies of Inventors (NAI) meeting at the US Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) headquarters in Alexandria, Va. Vimal Chaitanya and Kevin Boberg served on the 2014 conference program committee. Vimal Chaitanya also serves on the editorial board of the Technology and Innovation Journal published by NAI. Vimal will be co-editor of the 2015, Volume 17-1 issue on water technology and innovation with Dr. Len Polizzotto of Draper Laboratory.
- Vimal Chaitanya announced the search committee for an NMSU internal search for the Director of the Office of Grants and Contracts (OGC) after Neta Fernandez announced her retirement following a long dedicated service at NMSU. The search committee will be chaired by Steve Hottman, and the members include Sam Fernald, Jeff Arterburn, Steve Stochaj and Sudha Murthy.
- Vimal Chaitanya visited the office of the Lewis Burke Associates on March 7<sup>th</sup> and drafted the list of programmatic requests for NM congressional delegation for 2015. Aggie Saltman from Government Relations Office joined by phone.
- Pat Hynes attended the Annual National Space Grant and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Director's meeting in Washington, DC. Also met with all members of the New Mexico Congressional Delegation to present program updates. On March 7<sup>th</sup>, the New Mexico EPSCoR Red Team will finalize the written portion of the New Mexico NASA EPSCoR submission. The 2014 submission is titled, "JIVE in NM: Jovian Interiors from Velocimetry Experiment in New Mexico. A collaboration among New Mexico State University, New Mexico Tech, and Los Alamos National Laboratory, and scientists from the Laboratoire Lagrange in France.
- Office of Contracts and Grants (OGC) is putting final touches on the Colombia Scientific Balloon Facility (CSBF) proposal due on March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Physical Science Laboratory (PSL) received a new Task Order for \$900,000 on the Army Information Operations Vulnerability/Survivability Assessment (IOVSA) program.
- Neta Fernandez prepared a presentation at the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) Financial Research Administration Conference next week. She will be lead presenter, along with Gary Reynolds of Brigham Young University (BYU) for a one and-a-half hour session on cost sharing.
- Office of Research Development (ORD) provided reviews of multiple proposals, including review of three United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Hispanic Serving Institution Education Programs, one proposal for the NASA EPSCoR program, and three preliminary proposals for the Mountain West Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences Infrastructure Network.
- ORD held the kickoff meeting for the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative opportunity in Water.
- The New Mexico WRRRI submitted three proposals to the U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources National Competitive Grants Program, FY14. Investigators from



New Mexico State University, the University of New Mexico, and New Mexico Tech proposed research on water supplies from produced waters, effects of water conservation practices in mixed-use communities, and remote sensing techniques for controlling tamarisk evapotranspiration.

- Sam Fernald met with Qynergy representatives to discuss coordinating desalination innovation efforts with integrated water system research.
- Sam Fernald met with Karl Benedict of the University of New Mexico to explore hydrology data serving options for statewide water budget.
- Sam Fernald participated in a work session with Jose Rivera of the University of New Mexico to produce a paper relating New Mexico acequias to traditional irrigation systems worldwide.
- We recorded about \$600,000 in new awards this week.

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

- I began the evaluation process holding meetings with eleven of my sixteen direct reports.
- I attended the Campus Planning Committee to discuss the new spiritual center and other buildings on campus.
- Tammie Campos and I attended the final planning committee meeting for the WAC Tournament.
- Angela Throneberry, Ermelinda Quintela, and I met to discuss the financial implications of the Sports Enterprises, Inc. move to Athletics.
- John Papen and Tom Mobley, Foundation board members, JW Bowman, NMSU alumnus, and I met to discuss the status of the STEP policies.
- AAC and Athletics held a farewell reception for Wayne Stickney which was very well attended.
- Executive Director Dr. Tammie Campos met with grad students in Comm570 to discuss a project they will be participating in that will require service with a nonprofit for a semester. The group will serve the Alumni Association by conducting three facilitated conversations focused on current perceptions of the Alumni Association. Then the group will work with students by brainstorming ways the Alumni Association can improve outreach and benefits for students and recent graduates.
- The Alumni Association held a Brew and Stir for development officers and university leaders on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ten people were in attendance along with Alumni Association staff. The Brew and Stir is a time for the Alumni Association to update attendees on upcoming events and good news.
- The Mesilla Valley Chapter held a Mesilla Valley Lil' Aggies in the park event March 1<sup>st</sup>. Thirty alumni attended with their future Aggies. Crystal Lay, '02, Mesilla Valley Chapter leader; Dolores Cardoza, communications specialists; and Sheri Pettit, administrative assistant, supported the event.

- The February 2014 alumni e-newsletter had the highest open rate since the e-newsletter started. The e-newsletter was opened by 7,140 alumni and friends, and 307 alumni clicked on links within the newsletter.
- Tammie Campos met with Anthony Casaus, the new College of Business, Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations and Courtney Lopez, the College of Health and Social Services Community and Alumni Coordinator, to discuss Alumni Association outreach and the partnership with colleges.
- Nine members of the Phoenix Alumni Chapter attended the Phoenix Sun's Basketball Game March 2. Phoenix Chapter leader Joel Granger, '98, worked with the Alumni Association to coordinate the event.
- Terra V. Winter, Director of Development, College of Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences shared ACES' good news for the week.
  - The Turfgrass Research Program has received a \$3,000 gift from the United States Golf Association and a \$1,500 gift from the Southwest Turfgrass Association.
  - Entomology, Plant Pathology & Weed Science received several gifts for urban pest renewal research. A \$7,200 gift from Wellmark International and \$2,500 gift from FMC Corporation.
  - Al Porter, CEO of Farm Credit of NM and many of his staff members participated in their annual lecture series. The group presented to 12 different classes and met with the CoBank Student Board for the first time since its inception in late last year.
- The Chile Pepper Institute participated in the annual Fiery Foods Show in Albuquerque, NM. This was a great promotion and a donor development activity.
- Terra Winter visited with many of our local and statewide pecan growers during the annual Western Pecan Growers Conference on Sunday through Tuesday of this week.

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

- I met with the Aggie Athletic Club Board on Monday and presented a revised integrated Development strategy that brings coaches, Booster clubs, annual fund drive, special events and corporate sales together to allow for better efficiencies and less confusion in the athletic sales and fundraising.
- Athletics and AAC co-hosted an outreach activity at St. Clair's Winery that was well attended by the community, coaches and staff. Athletic Director McKinley Boston provided an update of happenings in Athletics and also announced that Wayne Stickney, Athletics Development officer was resigning and taking a similar position with Long Beach State, his alma mater.
- The Aggies recognized two seniors, Kevin Aronis and Renaldo Dixon at the last home game. They were recognized for their accomplishments as Aggie Men Basketball players. Both Kevin and Reynaldo have been major contributors to the team's success and have been a part of two NCAA championships.



- I am pleased to announce that James Hall, Associate AD in Athletics was recognized at the TRiO Day Celebration. James was honored as a TRiO alumnus and for being a positive role model to our youth. There were 160 high school students that attended the event.

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

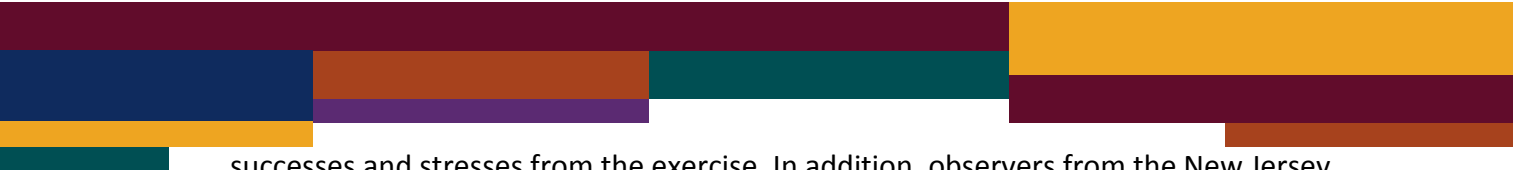
- UCOMM's Marketing Services group is a finalist for two "Accolade Awards" from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) for their work on the NMSU Admissions Viewbook. This award recognizes communications materials from universities and colleges in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Materials are judged for quality, creativity and innovation. Congratulations to the team.
- The Eye on Research in the Las Cruces Sun-News this week focused on the work of three researchers from the College of Engineering who secured a grant of \$493,567 to purchase a piece of high-tech equipment used in the study of structural and fluid dynamics. The three, Assistant Professor Young Lee and co-investigators Assistant Professor Fangjun Shu and Associate Professor Mingjun Wei, all from the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, were recognized during an NMSU Research Rally February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- This week's NMSU Sunday feature in the Las Cruces Sun-News highlighted 4-H Day at the Roundhouse. Students from across the state traveled to the New Mexico Capitol in Santa Fe during the recent legislative session and observed the state government in action. Each year the Legislature passes a joint memorial declaring the day of the youths' visit as New Mexico 4-H Day, and recognizes the youth development program that has more than 50,000 participants statewide.
- University Communications and Marketing Services hosted a two-day training on multimedia content, audience engagement, social media and analytics. NMSU's Marketing Services, Extension Publications, News, Media Productions and members of Dona Ana Community College Public Relations team attended the workshop.
- The KRWG TV engineering team completed the license work for the Deming TV translator. It has been filed with the FCC in Washington awaiting final approval.

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

- OGR staff continued their discussions with executive branch staff reference items in the general appropriations bill.

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

- NMDA hosted a full scale exercise with the support of the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and several other state and local agencies including the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service. This exercise is to test the emergency response plans for agriculture emergencies. Over 150 individuals participated in this exercise which also tested the surge capacity for the NMDA Veterinary Diagnostic Lab. An exercise evaluation team will prepare a report on the



successes and stresses from the exercise. In addition, observers from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the Wisconsin Department of Food and Agriculture were present to evaluate opportunities to replicate this event for their state agencies.

- NMDA staff attended and presented on various topics at the Western Pecan Growers conference. Staff also visited with producers and allied industry on their topics of concern.
- NMDA staff met with Jared Smith and Les Purcell of the NMSU Future Farmers of America (FFA) in regards to the State FFA Career Development Contest coming up on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements and plans were made to assist in the Poultry Judging portion of the contest which includes interior and exterior egg judging.