



New Mexico State University Weekly Activity Report

September 1 – 5, 2014

President Garrey Carruthers, Ph.D.

- Per my recent note in this report, we will need to reduce our NMSU budget for this academic year by about \$4.9 million as the result of declining enrollment. It is necessary to do this in that NMSU used reserves last year to cover a similar deficit created by low enrollment. We have identified up to \$1.5 million dollars savings in administration functions and will ask the members of the President's Academic Council to provide 1%, 3%, and 5% reduction scenarios for consideration. At the moment it appears that much of the reduction will come from carryover funds and excess reserves in departments and colleges, but those recommendations need to come from the units. We will continue to report on progress. (Keep in mind, part of our problem may be the result of our success – very large graduating classes in the last three years.)
- The Borderplex Alliance, a regional organization where I serve as VP, met at La Posta for their executive committee and board meeting. It was the largest attendance we have had from our Texas and Mexico partners. NMSU will play a large role in this organization as we turn to higher education to work on opportunities for improving our workforce and our central role in economic development.
- The Council of University Presidents met telephonically to discuss progress on the Funding Formula and to reconfirm priorities for the upcoming legislative session. It appears that the formula will be tweaked but the changes are acceptable and slightly advantageous for the science universities. The Presidents reconfirmed that faculty/staff salaries would be the highest priority for CUP in the next session.
- NMSU hosted and I testified before the Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee of the State Legislature. We are supporting a bill sponsored by Chairman/Senator Padilla and Vice Chairman/Representative Trujillo which would provide up to \$250,000 per project directed at commercializing intellectual property (referred to as Proof of Concept program) developed at NMSU, UNM and Tech. NMSU's Arrowhead Center has 7 projects in proof of concept but we can only afford \$25,000 per project. The funding would come from the State Investment Council which manages the Severance Tax Permanent fund which currently is worth over \$4.0 billion. The Land Grant and Severance Tax Permanent funds are now in excess of \$20 billion but the Land Grant fund cannot be tapped without voter approval.
- The Domenici Conference is just around the corner September 17th and 18th. Please encourage all students to attend. We will be handing out tickets to those students who attend in the event faculty wish to give extra credit for attendance. Student enrollment is free; all others pay \$50.00 for the best public policy conference in the Southwest. Speakers include Leon Panetta (former Secretary of Defense), Attorney General Gary King and Governor Susanna Martinez – candidates for the Governorship. Ya'll come!

- A large group celebrated to life and times of Mark Medoff, the legendary playwright, director, and teacher/professor/mentor. Mark has been an outstanding representative of NMSU and his industry. Congratulations Mark.

Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Dan Howard

- On Wednesday, September 3, I attended the Student Success Summit at the University of New Mexico. The summit brought together faculty and staff from the three research universities in the state to share successes and failures on the student success front.
- Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham kicked off the conference by noting the various challenges she faced as a student, and the important role faculty mentoring played in her eventual success in obtaining a degree. She closed her comments by challenging universities to make higher education affordable.
- The speaker from NM Tech noted that success begins with Calculus 1 at NM Tech and the institution places a lot of emphasis on getting students into this course right away. NM Tech also encourages first year students to participate in a first year research, first year design course. Students who participate in this program are retained at a higher rate than students who do not. NM Tech is also adopting a lecture capture system in a lot of its classrooms, which allow students to review lectures at their own pace. The system has been a hit with students.
- The speaker from UNM noted that the university focused on first year students over the course of the past year, a group of students that represents the greatest retention challenge for universities. Among the steps taken by UNM to help first year students, include the following:
 - better advising that helps students make the transition from home to university
 - reduction of time spent in developmental courses
 - a redesign of STEM gateway courses
 - increase in learning community offerings
 - enhanced new student orientation
 - initiation of student success centers
 - better writing support
 - more themed residence halls
 - more community engagement opportunities
 - stronger early alert system
 - major-centric advisement
 - degree mapping
- UNM has also adopted a 120 credit hour requirement
- Bernadette Montoya and I described student success initiatives now underway at NMSU. Because I described many of the initiatives in my last activity report, I will not repeat them here. However, I did make the point in my comments that student success is not just about retention and graduation. It is also about learning and the acquisition of transferable skills that will serve students well throughout a lifetime of work and learning.
- Another highlight of my week was a visit to the New Department of Agriculture with the President and the Chief of Staff to learn more about the agency and its good work on behalf of New Mexico and its citizens. The amount of regulatory work done by Jeff Witte and his very able staff is staggering.
- Finally, I, and many others, attended the tribute to Mark Medoff on Saturday night. It was a wonderful event, full of the love of family and friends. Thanks, Ross Marks, for pulling the event together. And thank you, Mark, for all you have done for NMSU, Las Cruces, and the world of theatre and movies.



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

- Producers and college students from Guadalupe, De Baca and Quay counties attended a Range Management and Burn Response/Recovery tour coordinated by the Guadalupe County Extension Service on September 3, 2013. The attendees toured an area on the Stovall Ranch near Pastura to discuss prescribed fire/burn opportunities in NM and see results from a 2014 spring burn. The 65-acre spring burn was designed to enhance livestock forage species by improving palatability and nutrient content while removing senescent grass. A unique opportunity was presented to burn patches of cockleburs to explore treatment efficacy. Dense patches of cockleburs affected livestock distribution and entangled livestock hair. Enhanced wildlife habitat was also desired. Pre- and post-fire data from burned and unburned pastures was presented to compare results. The NMSU Extension Natural Resource Fire/Burn Specialist, Doug Cram, explained how the burn was conducted, what weather conditions were needed to be successful and safe, what resources are available to help producers analyze using burn as both a rangeland production tool and an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tool.
- County fairs have started across the state. Cooperative Extension Service Agents play a major role in planning, conducting and assisting during these county fair events. Agents have been involved with fair boards and assist in a variety of ways. Agents serve as superintendents in areas ranging from livestock, 4-H division, horticulture displays, home arts and booths. Extension agents assist youth preparing livestock for show and serve to make sure the show runs properly. At most county fairs the Extension Agents are individuals that make sure the county fair is memorable for both participants and spectator.
- From the rolling hills of Silver City and ranch lands of Catron and Socorro Counties to the pine-covered mountains of Ruidoso, motorcycle riders experienced some of the best views in southern New Mexico as they joined Regent Mike Cheney and President Garrey Carruthers in the “2014 Ride for the 4-H Clover.” As a result of a vision of Regent Chairman Mike Cheney for a motorcycle tour to increase awareness of the importance of 4-H youth programs and the Cooperative Extension Service to New Mexicans, over 80 participants had the chance to experience spectacular New Mexico scenery and help support the programs offered by New Mexico State University’s Cooperative Extension Service and its 4-H youth activities during the August 23rd weekend. This was a chance for people to have some fun and learn about the ways we serve New Mexicans, all at the same time. Riders had the opportunity to tour and learn about Extension activities in Dona Ana, Grant, Catron, Socorro, and Lincoln counties. The event was co-sponsored by Barnett's Las Cruces Harley-Davidson, Las Cruces Visitors and Convention Bureau, Bodega Burger Company in Socorro, and the City of Socorro. Plans are already underway for the third annual “Ride for the 4-H Clover” next year. Below are a few comments from this year’s participants:

"My wife and I enjoyed the ride. It was our second time and the 4-H groups were great, and also it was nice to have law enforcement involved this year. Already making plans for next year. Thank you."

"As a 4-H family, it was amazing to see all the riders that didn't know about 4-H walk away with so much knowledge. Mike truly put on an amazing bike run. We are heavily involved in 4-H and love to ride our bike. So this was a great trip. Seeing all the beautiful countryside I have not had a chance to see before and meet such wonderful people. The bike run was well-organized and the food, friendship, and people were great. Thanks again. See you next year."



"Congratulations on a great weekend. I can't tell you how many positive comments I heard about the event. There were many experienced riders there, and they all raved about the route, the food, the speakers, and how well-organized everything was. But most of all, they were very complimentary of your people. The University, and CES staff, and 4-Hers did a great job always positive, friendly, and smiling. Made everyone feel welcome."

"What a fun and creative way to celebrate the wonderful support NMSU's 4-H had given the youth of our state. I have firsthand knowledge, 4-H changes lives for the better. Thanks to the NMSU Regents for organizing this ride to raise awareness."

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

- I met with Rani Alexander, new Department Head of Anthropology, to discuss the selection of a new Museum Director to succeed Monte McCrossin, who is returning to full-time faculty at the end of the calendar year. Dr. McCrossin has been an excellent Director and was very successful in developing outreach programs to bring the community to the museum and extend the university into the community.
- Patrick Knapp and I have continued our lunches with members of the Dean's Council. In recent weeks, we have met with Brenda Porter, Pat and Lou Sisbarro, Ted and Mary Lee Shelton, and Frank Leto. Most have been dedicated and engaged members of the Dean's Council since its creation and have provided me with excellent advice and support.
- Associate Dean Enrico Pontelli led the College Promotion and Tenure Workshop for Department Heads and Department P&T Chairs. Cathy Thomas and I provided information on submission of P&T dossiers and Enrico addressed college and university policies and answered questions from those in attendance.
- Associate Dean Jeff Brown and I attended the Art Department Freshman welcome at the Art Gallery and also got a tour of the installation of the new gallery exhibit, Off the Wall.
- We hosted the first Coffee with the Deans of the new academic year. It was a good turnout with new and returning faculty. Minerva Baumann and Isabel Rodriguez attended from University Communications.
- Jeff Brown and I met with the staff from the Arts and Sciences Research Center to discuss their roles and responsibilities in the new Shared Services Center, which should be operational soon.
- The associate deans and I attended a Memorial Service in the Chemistry/Biochemistry Department for former College of Arts and Sciences Dean Jack Monagle. The service was organized by Department Head Bill Quintana. Music was provided by Lisa Van Winkle. It was a beautiful tribute to one of the university's most successful faculty members, who founded the PhD program in the department and who established the Astronomy Department when he was dean. Family members came from California, Italy, New York, and Albuquerque. Provost Dan Howard gave a moving account of Dr. Monagle's life and contribution to NMSU, followed by comments from several faculty members.
- The Associate Deans and several members of the Dean's Council attended the fundraising event celebrating of Mark Medoff's career entitled "Mark Medoff: Far from Finished." It was a grand evening beginning with a dinner at Atkinson Hall and followed by a program in the Mark and Stephanie Medoff Theatre, which featured celebrities from entertainment who have benefited from Mark's inspiration and collaboration. The program included outstanding performances by the Las Cruces Symphony Orchestra, dancers, and choral members. Governor Martinez, President Carruthers, Frank Leto paid tribute to Mark Medoff. Over \$100,000 was raised to begin Mark Medoff Lecture Series, which will bring successful members of the entertainment



industry to NMSU to provide lectures for students and members of the community. The first Mark Medoff Lecturer will be Aaron Sorkin, Academy and Emmy Award-winning screenwriter.

- Associate Dean Brown participated in telephone interviews with candidates for Head of Theatre Arts.
- Reta Beebe (Astronomy) received \$20,000 from NASA for the Atmospheres Node of the Planetary Data System project. Brad Shuster (Biology) received \$426,500 from NIH to study the regulation of spindle orientation along the developmental axes in echinoderm embryos. We learned that Jim Kroger (Psychology) received a \$59,490 supplement in July from NSF for direct brainwave measurements.
- Ralph Preszler (Biology) was asked by the U.S. Office of Science and Technology Policy to discuss his Howard Hughes Medical Institute-funded project to create a sophomore-level research course.

Dean, College of Business, Dr. James Hoffman

- I had the privilege of being a guest speaker in our Leadership Training for college ambassadors' class (BA 305) on Wednesday. It was an excellent opportunity to share my experience as a first generation college student with this group and discuss my future goals for the college.
- I was able to meet several freshmen students this week by visiting our introductory business (BUSA 111) and information systems (BCIS 110) classes. We hosted a meet and greet reception on Thursday in the Willis Lounge and quickly distributed several pizzas and bottled water to some very appreciative students. It was a great opportunity to reach out to our new students and really welcome them early in the semester.
- Attended a reception for the New Mexico Legislative Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee on Thursday. The committee was visiting campus and held a hearing that day.
- Along with Provost Dan Howard, VP Bernadette Montoya, Sonya Cooper (ENGR), and several others from NMSU, Kathy Brook attended a Student Success Summit at UNM on September 3. The meeting brought together representatives from UNM, NMSU, and New Mexico Tech to discuss some of the challenges to student success and actions being taken at the three schools to improve retention, graduation rates and student learning outcomes. The New Mexico Higher Education Department was represented by Derick Welch who commented on the need for an aspirational work force, data-driven decisions, and collaboration. He particularly noted the opportunity to bring innovative ideas to HED through the Research and Public Service Program (RPSP) process. The lunch speaker was Betty Capaldi Phillips, Provost Emerita at ASU. She indicated that there had been too much choice and lack of coherence in the ASU curriculum. Students who don't pass critical courses in two tries are asked to change their majors. Some of the actions being taken at the schools include redesign of entry level math courses to include more hands-on activity and self-paced learning, a first year research and design class at NM Tech, use of lecture capture systems so that students could review lectures to get clarification of details, reductions in the amount of time spent in developmental courses.
- If all goes well, doctoral students will be moving into Domenici Hall in the next week and we will contemplate moving some classes into the building. One purpose of moving classes is to get better acquainted with the facilities and make sure that everything is functioning properly. Those in Guthrie who have been using the Scantron and copier located in GU 300E should be aware

that this equipment will be relocated – details to follow. The printer, which has been used by graduate students will go to Domenici Hall. It appears that the college will be responsible for scheduling of classes and events in Domenici Hall during the fall semester.

- In the MBA program we have a new group of 20 students starting at Sandia National Lab with 13 continuing from the group that started last fall. Of the new students, eight are from Los Alamos National Lab.



Dean Hoffman & COB Student Ambassadors

Dean, College of Education, Dr. Michael Morehead

- Dean Morehead met with the President's Academic Council, and at that meeting was discussed the reduction of budgets this year because of declining enrollments. There is a likely chance that the college will have to return up to two percent of the college's budget for the fiscal year. The President's office will be notifying the University of the timeline and process. It was determined at the meeting to allow each college and department the flexibility on how to reduce their budget.
- Dr. Morehead is meeting with each faculty member in the department of Counseling and Educational Psychology to discuss the process that will be used to select the next department head. The Dean hopes to provide a recommendation to the department by the end of September.
- The College had our Scholarship Reception on Thursday and over 250 individuals attended. At this reception we recognized the scholarship recipients, their families and donors. The college awarded over 100,000 dollars in scholarships for the first time and there were over 80 recipients recognized at the reception.
- Dean Morehead met with Dr.s Haynes Writer and Herman Garcia to discuss the possibility of offering an online Master's degree totally in Spanish and also discussed the possible partnership with Ecuador in the future. There are plans to move forward on the Master's in Spanish and to begin dialogue with Ecuador.

Dean, College of Engineering, Dr. Ricardo Jacquez

- The College of Engineering hosted the BEST Robotics Competition (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology) kick-off this past weekend. More than 300 students from throughout New Mexico and El Paso came to learn the rules for this year's competition. They received materials and will build robots over the next six weeks. Some 700 students are expected for the final competition in late October. The college has served as the hub for New Mexico BEST since 2001.
- Alan Shepherd approached the College of Engineering Manufacturing Technology and Engineering Center (M-TEC) and asked for engineering analysis and manufacturing advice for a product he had developed as an electrician to safely remove manhole covers and grates. M-TEC conducted analysis on the assembly to determine the structural limitations of the device. M-TEC also made several manufacturing recommendations to increase functionality of the device, as well as decrease the weight and cost. To conclude the project, M-TEC will perform destructive testing on two of the device's components to determine maximum loading capabilities and will report back to the customer.

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

- Southwest Institute for Health Disparities Research Kick-Off Mini-Conference was held on September 5. Organized by Dr. Jill McDonald, SWIHDR Director, the conference was intended to galvanize health disparities research across campus. It is hoped that participation in this conference and planning meeting will lead to more interdisciplinary research and applications for external funding across campus. Dr. Joe Tomaka, Associate Dean for Research, participated by giving a brief presentation on an interdisciplinary research project on Point of Use Water Treatment in Colonias and led a discussion in one of the key concentration areas, obesity research.



- Kristin Robles from the Rivers of Mercy orphanage in Juarez visited the NMSU School of Social Work this week to share her mission and coordinate ways that social work students can offer aid to the children that she shelters. Most of the children at the Rivers of Mercy arrive from the Mexican Social Services (DIF). Most have been removed from homes where they experienced severe abuse, neglect and very little education. Kristen shared that they have recently constructed an elementary school where the children can engage in formal learning. The School of Social Work's Phi Alpha Honor's Society is planning ways to provide canned goods and diapers for the Rivers of Mercy. In the future, the School of Social Work hopes to become involved in findings ways to offer mental health support to these children, which is currently an unmet need. For more information, visit the website at <http://RiverOfMercy.org>
- Dr. Frances Nedjat-Haiem is a participant on the VA Committee of Hospice and Palliative Care Social Workers who are gearing up to present a panel session on Caring for Veterans' at the End of Life which will be held at the Social Work and Palliative Care Network (SWHPN) Conference in 2015. <http://www.swhpn.org/>
- Dr. Rebecca Palacios, Public Health, became a Certified Trainer for Cultural Competency in Health and Human Services.

Interim Dean, Graduate School, Dr. Loui Reyes

No Activity to Report

Dean, Honors College, Dr. Miriam Chaiken

- I prepared a budget and proposal for the spring annual University Lecture Series. We hope to bring noted activist, writer, and film maker Sherman Alexie. I conferred with possible venues on campus and other offices that may cosponsor this event (American Indian Programs).
- I finalized the composition of the search committee and the advertisement for the position of Associate Dean in the Honors College. I disseminated this notice to all colleges and invited applications for this .50 FTE position by the October 1 closing date.

- I worked with our administrative assistant Valerie Torres to finalize the first proof of the spring 2015 schedule of classes.
- I participated in a meeting of the search committee for the position of Dean of the Graduate School.
- I met with a representative of the NY Times Education Division to learn about resources available through the Times for incorporation into university curriculum. This year, for the first time, ASNMSU is funding electronic access to the Times for all students and I will share information about this option to the faculty who teach in the Honors College as well as our 5,000 Crimson Scholars on our list serve.
- On Saturday I co-hosted a half day workshop in the Honors College for 12 new Presidential Associate Scholars. These students are among the best and brightest of our new freshmen, and we discussed strategies for success in college, options to participate in Honors College curriculum, and had a nice social event.
- On Saturday evening I attended the gala celebrating our treasure Mark Medoff.

Dean, University Library, Dr. Elizabeth Titus

- Held an all staff meeting with the Archives and Special Collections Department to have a conversation on organizational restructuring.
- April Anaya, Library Development and the Dean met with the NMSU Alumni staff to share ideas on ways the library and the alumni office team can collaborate.
- Attended a reception for a Science, Technology and Telecommunications NM Legislative committee that was on campus for the day. NMSU students and their faculty advisors were present and shared information on their research which focused on new product development which supports economic development.
- The Dean and Associate Dean met with the Arrowhead team that the library is working with on a project.

Associate Provost, International and Border Program, Dr. Cornell Menking Traveling in China will report next week.

Senior Vice President Administration and Finance, Angela Throneberry

- The 3rd Annual Cowboys for Cancer Fundraiser Event – at the NMSU Golf Course on August 29 was a huge success. A total of 69 groups competed in a morning and afternoon shotgun start, and the tournament generated in excess of \$50,000 for the Cowboys for Cancer Research. Bryan Foster, the Food and Beverage Manager at the NMSU Golf Course, was the tournament director and did an outstanding job of coordinating this tremendous event.
- Local food and beverages at Pan American Center – The New Mexico Market, located in the Pan American Center, was unveiled for NMSU's Volleyball game on Sept. 4th. This stunning slice of New Mexico's tastes and sights will feature local food and beverages at games and special events in the Pan Am. * Feedback Welcome – The NMSU Storm Water Management Program annual report is open for public review. The comment period ends September 17, 2014. Please forward any comments to Jack Kirby, Assistant Director for Environmental Health & Safety.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan – NMSU joined with Doña Ana County in a multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan that was recently approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). By receiving this approval, NMSU is eligible for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program for the next five years.

- ICT Help Desk handles over 2100 requests for help – During a fourteen day period at the start of the fall semester, the ICT Help Desk successfully assisted students, faculty, and staff in resolving 2,104 separate technology issues. The Help Desk, which is primarily staffed by student employees, typically experiences high call volumes during the first few weeks of each semester. Excellent work Help Desk staff!

Special Advisor to the President, Ben Woods

No Activity to Report

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

- Dr. Montoya attended a lunch arranged by Ricardo Rel of NMSU’s Office of Government Relations with Representative Jason Harper and student leaders from ASNMSU. Representative Harper has been instrumental in working toward solutions to the Lottery Scholarship solvency issue and plans to keep working on this issue in the future.

- On September 3, Dr. Montoya, with Provost Howard, addressed NMSU’s contributions to student access and success at the Student Success Summit in Albuquerque. The Student Success Summit was attended by representatives from New Mexico’s research universities, who came to share and identify issues and effective practices at their institutions.



NMSU was represented by (left to right): Hector Sanchez (Registrar’s Office), Jeff Hackney and Adelina Rodriguez (College of Education), Anita Reinhardt (Health and Social Services), Bernadette Montoya (SAEM), Kathy Brook (College of Business), Sonya Cooper (College of Engineering), Jennifer Hodges (College of Arts and Sciences), and Provost Howard.

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University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services, Ms. Janie Merchant

- Recruitment season is in full swing at University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services. Earlier this week Financial Aid Outreach Advisor Claire Montoya joined dozens of other campus departments at the Study Abroad Fair in Corbett Center. Montoya was excited to report that she spoke to at least 100 students regarding study abroad and its effects on financial aid.
- University Financial Aid and Scholarship Services will be participating in the New Mexico State Fair’s College and Career Day by sending 2,000 pieces of recruitment material that will be available to over 3,000 high school juniors and seniors on September 16.
- Financial aid has been disbursed to students for the Fall 2014 semester. To date, over \$75 million has been awarded to NMSU students system-wide, including over \$15 million in scholarships, over \$22 million in grants, \$23 million in loans, \$1 million for Athletics, and over \$12 million in waivers.



University Admissions, Ms. Valerie Pickett

- The Arizona College Days program kicked off this week. Recruiters attended fairs in Yuma, San Luis, Wellton, and Gila Bend. Recruiters also attended a transfer event at Saddleback Community College.
- Recruiters delivered new recruitment materials to schools in northwest and central New Mexico. NMSU hosted an application day at the Early College Academy in Albuquerque.
- Aggie Experience, our open house event for prospective undergraduate students, will be held on October 4, 2014. Over 26,000 email and 20,000 printed invitations were mailed to high school seniors in New Mexico and the surrounding states.
- Staff from the Office of University Admissions and Student Engagement met with the administration from Arrowhead Park Early College High School to discuss the transition process from high school to NMSU for the first graduating class from the school. The discussion included a review of the admission, registration, and advising processes for these students and how we might improve these processes for the next cohort.

University Registrar

- The open forum and campus interview was held for Registrar candidate Dr. Cassandra Lachica-Chavez on Friday, September 5. Resumes for the three candidates for University Registrar are online at studentaffairs.nmsu.edu.

Student Engagement, Dr. Terry Cook

- Aggie Welcome and Orientation/New Student Registration: Assistant Vice President Cook is conducting meetings with the New Student Registration and Aggie Welcome Team to prepare a final summary of program outcomes. Following each of the twelve NSR sessions for Fall 2014, a debrief session was held with academic advisors from each of the colleges and with key partners supporting the program, including Admissions, Housing & Campus Life, Financial Aid, ICT, and Career Services. Recommended changes were addressed prior to each session.
- Chase Scholar Mentor Program: Mentor training was held for Kaylene Womack and Meghan Ontiveros, NMSU seniors who will meet with 20 new first year and transfer students funded by the Chase Foundation, Artesia, New Mexico during the 2014–15 academic year. To meet scholarship requirements, new students are required to attend weekly mentoring sessions that focus on developing success strategies and connections to NMSU curricular and extracurricular resources. NMSU has collaborated with The Chase Foundation in providing this program since 2010.

Campus Health Center, Ms. Lori McKee

- Preparations were made last week for the Annual 1-10 Coalition Blood Drive during the rivalry week between NMSU and UTEP. This year's event kicked off with a "Twilight" movie marathon sponsored by Student Affairs & Enrollment Management. President Carruthers served as a gracious spokesperson for a public service announcement promoting blood donation as a thirsty vampire. NMSU has headed the challenge for four of the last five years, collecting over 3,478 units of blood, which helped 10,434 persons. NMSU is one of the largest donation locations for the United Blood Services bank in the southwest region.
- Each semester the Campus Health Center (CHC) screens incoming international students and program participants for tuberculosis (TB) upon entering the NMSU system. Based on CDC recommendations, the CHC moved away from traditional TB skin testing to a TB blood test called QuantiFERON-Gold. This type of testing is the preferred method as it does not interfere with persons who have received the BCG vaccine (anti-tuberculosis) in their home countries, it reduces



the number of people who have to return to the CHC for a second appointment to check for reactions to skin testing, and it is more accurate with positivity rates. The CHC conducted 266 blood tests over the past couple of weeks with only 4.5% of those tested needing follow-up diagnostic testing. This compares to a 20–30% positivity rate with the TB skin testing.

Vice President Economic Development, Dr. Kevin Boberg **Studio G Networking Hour**

- Last Friday Studio G hosted the first Networking Hour of the fall semester and it was a big hit! The event drew a great crowd of students from across campus – biology, computer science, business, English, social work, and engineering – to network with entrepreneurs and learn about funding opportunities available for Aggies to start businesses. Studio G Networking will continue through the fall semester every Friday 2-3 at Studio G in Academic Research A. Please join us in getting involved with Studio G and supporting our student startup enterprises.

Innoventure Presentation to the Science and Technology Legislative Committee

- On Thursday, Innoventure director Marie Borchert attended a reception for the Science, Technology and Telecommunications legislative committee. The reception was also attended by current and former Innoventure teams who exhibited posters with information on their Innoventure team projects. On Friday, Ms. Borchert, along with Drs. Enrico Pontelli and Susan Brown, gave a presentation regarding STEM outreach efforts at NMSU.

Vice President Research, Dr. Vimal Chaitanya No Activity to Report

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

- Received \$58,000 from Boeing Company for Engineering scholarships, STEM outreach programming and senior design project support.
- Received a \$70,000 securities gift to set up and support the Dr. Tim and Paula Ross Scholarship in Animal and Range Sciences.
- Received a \$5,000 check to support a new scholarship in Animal and Range Sciences. This scholarship will be announced in the spring at the honorees request.
- Received a \$50,000 gift from a Legacy donor to benefit the Pres Askew Endowed Scholarship in the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- VP Harrelson visited with the American Cancer Society and with the Coca Cola Foundation while in Atlanta, GA on September 4 – 6, 2014.

Athletics Director, Dr. McKinley Boston, Jr. No Activity to Report

Associate Vice President University Communications, Maureen Howard

- This week's Eye on Research in the Las Cruces Sun-News highlighted a bi-national study focused on pinpointing dust sources and evaluating the health effects of windstorms in the border region. Funded through the New Mexico Department of Health's Office of Border Health, this project combines expertise from NMSU, the New Mexico Environment Department, UTEP, the

Autonomous University of Juarez and the Desert Research Institute, to achieve a better understanding of the sources of air quality contaminants and how weather affects air quality.

- This week's Sunday feature in the Las Cruces Sun-News focused on the community outreach of NMSU education faculty Mary Fahrenbruck and David Rutledge, who have worked with the Mesilla Valley Alternative Middle School and Central Elementary School to launch a parent library at Central, based on a national initiative called the Little Free Library.
- The Marketing Services team, along with Web Communications and Admissions, are in the process of completing recruitment advertising materials such as billboards and a digital campaign that will run from mid-September to mid-November. Below is an example of the new billboard.



- KRWG sponsored a Coffee Break at the Bean in Las Cruces on Wednesday. This event provided the opportunity to talk with supporters, and more than two dozen local viewers and listeners attended.

Assistant Vice President Government Relations, Ricardo Rel

State Activities

- The Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee held their meeting on campus. NMSU related presentations included:
 - Welcome by the President
 - State Private Equity Investing for Technology Commercialization (President Carruthers served on a panel)
 - New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
 - NMSU Smart Grid Research
 - NMSU STEM-E Diversity
 - Uranium Abatement in Drinking Water

Upcoming Legislative Events:

- September 9 – Investments and Pensions
 - Economically Targeted Investments in New Mexico (panel includes: Steven Moise, Brian Birx and David Abbey)
 - Educational Retirement (ERB) Status Reports and Updates
- September 9 – Disabilities Concerns Subcommittee
 - Welcome by President Carruthers

- Tour of Speech and Hearing Center and Luncheon Presentation on NMSU Cleft Palate and Rural Outreach Programs (NMSU Special Education Department faculty, staff, students)
- September 10 – Legislative Health and Human Services Committee – NMSU Barbara Hubbard Room
 - Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (President Carruthers, George Mychaskiw)
 - Human Performance Dance and Recreation High Impact on Health and Human Development (Various NMSU Faculty, staff and students from the College of Education)
 - Southwest Region National Child Protection Training Center (Shelly Bucher and Ester Devall)
 - Citizens Review Board Update (Shelly Bucher)
 - Best Practices for Addressing Childhood Obesity (Carol Turner from NMSU is on a panel with other individuals)
 - NMSU is hosting a reception for the committee at the Fulton Center
- September 11-12 – Legislative Health and Human Services Committee – Truth or Consequences
- September 15 – Jobs Council – Santa Teresa
 - Workforce Development Initiatives (Kari Mitchel)
 - Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (George Mychaskiw and Ben Woods)
 - Job Creation in South Central Region (Kevin Boberg and Wayne Savage)
- September 16-17 – Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee – Carlsbad
 - Russell Hardy to testify
- September 17, 2013 – Behavioral Health Subcommittee – Silver City

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

- NMDA hosted a breakfast meeting with NMSU President Carruthers, Executive Vice President and Provost Dan Howard, and Chief of Staff Sharon Jones. Secretary Witte and each of the NMDA Division Directors provided an overview of NMDA’s role, services, and programs throughout the state.
- NMDA staff and I went to Alexandria, Va to do a New Mexico fresh roasted green chile promotion with NMSU Alumni at the Capitalize Fresh Market store.
- Staff will conduct a land-use planning workshop in Las Cruces at the Columbus Conference Center on October 6-7. More information will follow.
- NMDA staff is preparing for the New Mexico State Fair, September 10-21 in Albuquerque. The following promotions are being hosted by NMDA staff:
 - Sept. 13—Battle of the Salsas will be held from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 - Sept. 14—Quesadilla, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 - Sept. 15—NM Green Chile Cheeseburger Contest, NMDA will be sponsoring the “People’s Choice” Award at this event. The time for this event is set for 4 p.m.
 - Sept. 19—Onion Rings, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 - Sept. 20—Watermelon, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
 - Sept. 13-14, 19 & 20—New Mexico Cheese sampling will take place from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm



Chief, NMSU Police, Stephen Lopez

- A meeting was held with Alamogordo Campus officials to discuss standardization of security officer positions, duties, hiring and training standards, etc. In order to meet a short-term crisis at the campus, the Police Department is hiring and assigning a part-time security officer at their campus until changes being worked on with Human Resources can be fully implemented and the position filled on a permanent, full-time basis.
- The first meeting of the Free Speech Task Force was held at the Police Department Training Room. The atmosphere was energetic and promising, leading to hopes that a workable policy can be developed quickly and presented to the community and administration for feedback and approval.
- The Police Department conducted a preliminary security review of the Carlsbad Campus to aid in the development of a long-term safety plan. A subsequent visit with a team of subject-matter experts will take place near the end of September to develop the detail for the report.
- An Active Shooter/Killer presentation was conducted on Sept. 5 at the Carlsbad Campus for faculty and staff. The presentation was well attended, with a number of positive responses.
- The New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy Board made rule changes regarding physical fitness standards and firearms qualification standards for police officers. The NMSU Police Department has incorporated these into materials sent out to applicants who are awaiting assessment for the current vacant positions. There are currently one police officer cadet at the Hobbs, NM police academy, and two at the Dona Ana County Sheriff's Department police academy.
- A task force on building access control has been formed in conjunction with Facilities and Services. Hadley Hall is about to go online with new electronic locks as part of this effort, with other buildings already scheduled for deployment.
- Bicycle theft and burglaries of outlying buildings continue to be issues around the Las Cruces campus. Weekly crime logs are available by contacting the NMSU Police Department at police@nmsu.edu.
- Representatives from all campuses in the NMSU system met to standardize language and reporting for the Annual Safety and Security Reports that are due out for all campuses at the end of this month. This effort focused on making changes required by the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA), to include the Campus SAVE amendments. This will become an annual workshop for all campuses to help ensure full compliance with the statutes