


DATE: January 2, 2025

TO: NMSU employees

FROM: Valerio Ferme, NMSU President 

SUBJECT: NMSU's Athletics Director

Earlier today, I met with Mario Moccia to let him know that I intend to go in a different direction with the leadership of NMSU's Athletic Department. After carefully reviewing the recent report issued by the New Mexico Department of Justice, I felt we needed a fresh start in our athletics program. Notwithstanding the current decision, I want to thank Mario for the work he has done for NMSU athletics over the years.

Going forward, I have asked Dr. Amber Burdge to serve as acting athletics director, effective immediately. Most recently, she has served as NMSU's deputy athletic director for strategic initiatives and leadership, as well as the senior woman administrator and deputy Title IX coordinator for the athletics department. Most importantly, she has a student-first mindset and has helped work on NMSU's strategic response to hazing prevention.

Before coming to NMSU, she was the associate athletic director for student-athlete success services at Louisiana Tech University for eight years, overseeing significant academic improvement and community service initiatives. Before that, she served as the athletic director for Neosho County Community College, where she oversaw 16 sports programs that won six national titles and produced 36 NJCAA All-American accolades and honors.

Her experience also includes leadership roles at Stephen F. Austin and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, with a strong focus on academic and leadership development. She holds a bachelor's in health and a master's degree in counseling from Oklahoma State. She also earned a Doctor of Education at Louisiana Tech.

I have utter confidence in Dr. Burdge's ability to lead our Athletic Department and look forward to working with her in the coming months.