



Office of the Chancellor

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DATE: July 3, 2023

TO: NMSU Community

FROM: Jay Gogue, Interim Chancellor 

SUBJECT: Assistant Vice President for Government and Community Relations

I'm pleased to announce that Clayton Abbey has accepted the position of assistant vice president of Government and Community Relations for New Mexico State University. Clayton has served in that role on an interim basis since December 2022 following the retirement of Ricardo Rel, who led our government relations office for 25 years.

The NMSU Office of Government and Community Relations represents the university's interests and priorities with the state legislature, federal government, and government agencies. Prior to serving as the interim assistant vice president, Clayton was the office's director for state government. He has more than 20 years of public service experience in K-12 education, higher education and public transportation.

Clayton holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Northeastern University, a master's degree in early childhood education from Fordham University, and a master of public administration from Baruch College School of Public Affairs.

Prior to his work here at NMSU, Clayton held government affairs roles with New Mexico Junior College, Central New Mexico Community College, and the Association of New Mexico Independent Community Colleges.

Clayton's top priorities in his new role will be fortifying existing relationships with legislators and stakeholders across the state and continuing to build new relationships within the communities served by NMSU.

The Office of Government and Community Relations has a critical role in advocating for the university system's priorities and helping lawmakers and policymakers fully understand the impact of its teaching, research and outreach work. Clayton will continue to build on the tremendous work that Ricardo and his team have done over the years.

Please join me in congratulating Clayton on his new role. You may reach the Office of Government and Community Relations at gaffairs@nmsu.edu or 575-646-5909.