



Office of the Chancellor

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DATE: June 17, 2021

TO: NMSU Employees

FROM: Chancellor Dan E. Arvizu

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Dan E. Arvizu'.

SUBJECT: Reorganization in Chancellor's Office

The purpose of this note is to inform you of a small reorganization in the Chancellor's Office.

I am pleased to announce that Leslie Cervantes has accepted the position of Chief of Staff with oversight of the Office of Strategic Initiatives (OSI) and the University Flight Operations in the Chancellor's Office, effective July 1, 2021. This position reports to the Chancellor.

Strategic initiatives are fully integrated into LEADS 2025 and connect us to statewide, nationwide and global challenges. The Office of Strategic Initiatives will continue to be supported by a cross-cutting team of subject matter experts to advance local, national, regional and global opportunities for the entire NMSU system. Dr. Patricia Sullivan will continue as the Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives with her emphasis being Energy, Water, Data Analytics and Education and she will continue to lead the Energy Cabinet. Leslie will provide emphasis on Ag Modernization, Health and Education. Eric Sanchez as the Director of the Physical Sciences Laboratory will focus on National Defense and Security and work on strategic federal programs. Lenny will focus on economic development and will fill the vacant VP of Economic Development. I've asked Lenny to take on a crosscut of all our strategic initiatives and develop our economic development strategy as a system, to cover the region, the state and the region to include our Mexico strategy. In that context, Arrowhead and Kathy Hansen will report to Lenny. Through this structure, I expect OSI to provide strategic support to our NMSU system and prepare NMSU to achieve our strategic intent.

Leslie graduated from NMSU with a degree in Human Resource Management. Prior to accepting this position, she served as the Associate Vice President for Alumni and Donor Relations in University Advancement and prior to that served as Chief of Staff for the Superintendent for the Las Cruces Public Schools. Leslie was recognized as a 2019 New Mexico Women of Influence by Albuquerque Business First and has served on many nonprofit boards in the Las Cruces Community as well as for the State of New Mexico. Leslie brings experience and a proven track record of success in building strategic partnerships, a keen understanding of the complexity of our statewide challenges and opportunities, and a deep engagement with our Aggie stakeholders which will be invaluable in meeting the goals and objectives in Leads 2025.

Leslie is an excellent match for this position and a strong asset not only to the Chancellor's Office but to the entire NMSU system. Leslie has an office in the Engineering 1 building and will also share office space in the Chancellor's Suite. She can be reached at 575-646-3587 and leslie86@nmsu.edu. Please join me in welcoming Leslie and in supporting this new alignment in the Chancellor's Office.