



Office of the President

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DATE: Aug. 21, 2013
TO: All faculty, staff and students
FROM: Garrey Carruthers, President
SUBJECT: 2013 Fall Semester

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Garrey Carruthers', written over a horizontal line.

Hello and welcome to the fall 2013 semester at New Mexico State University.

On June 1, I became NMSU's 27th president. Since that time, it has been my intention to step out quickly, and work to make sure NMSU continues to be one of the best universities in the country and the most important institution in the state.

I want to thank the Faculty Senate and the Board of Regents for allowing me to make one of my first moves – to name Dan Howard, a long-time NMSU professor and former dean at the University of Colorado Denver, as our executive vice president and provost. Dr. Howard will be one of the best provosts in the nation. He is an outstanding academic, a premier scholar and the exact person I was looking for to help in leading this university.

This week, the Board of Regents approved Vision 2020, the university's new strategic plan. It outlines our focus on graduation, diversity, internationalization, research and creative activity, economic development, resource stewardship, and community service, extension and outreach. Among the priorities for 2013 outlined in the plan are decreasing the time to graduation; increasing graduate student enrollment; enhancing the diversity of faculty, staff and students; expanding research activity; and increasing faculty and employee compensation. Going forward, we will use the plan to set our goals, establish budget priorities and then measure how well we are doing.

Something we have known for a while, but had never before put into words is the idea that New Mexico State University transforms lives through discovery. NMSU is where our students find themselves, who they are and what they want to be. For generations, our researchers have also made important discoveries in agriculture, engineering, science and other fields. Each day, the NMSU Cooperative Extension Service discovers the needs of the people in New Mexico and works to fulfill them. In short, NMSU is all about discovery. I invite you to visit the All About Discovery link at <http://www.nmsu.edu/president> for more information about why, how and what we do in transforming lives through discovery.

We, as a university community, need to have pride in what we do, perform at a high level, and most of all, we need to promote the enterprise – New Mexico State University.

Whether it is in the classroom, in a laboratory, on the athletic field or any other place, we need to have pride in the fantastic work being done by each of our students, faculty and staff members. That is why, beginning this semester, I am emphasizing Aggie Pride Fridays. I encourage you to wear your Aggie gear each Friday to show support for the university, who we are and what we accomplish every day.

Now, a special note to our students: While attending NMSU, your job is to work to earn your degree and join the more than 100,000 NMSU graduates living around the world. In addition to hitting the books, there are plenty of campus activities to participate in and to enjoy while you are here. I encourage you to attend Aggie games, see a play or other performance at NMSU's Center for the Arts, become part of student government or another campus organization. This is the time of your life; enjoy it.

Have a great semester.