



College of Agricultural, Consumer
and Environmental Sciences

Agricultural Experiment Station
Office of the Associate Dean and Director
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New Mexico State University
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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 29, 2019

To: Tina Byford, Interim Vice President, NMSU Foundation
Chair, NMSU Naming Committee

Through: Rolando A. Flores, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

From: Natalie P. Goldberg, Interim Associate Dean and Director
Agricultural Experiment Station

Subject: Request to Rename Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Natalie P. Goldberg", is written over the "From:" line of the memorandum.

Rex E. Kirksey worked for New Mexico State University from July 1, 1980, until his retirement June 30, 2012. He was the superintendent of the Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari for 30 years and 11 months (August 1981 until his retirement), which is the longest tenure to date of any superintendent in the agricultural science center's 106 years of continuous operation. Rex supported collaborative and integrated agricultural research efforts for both livestock management and crop production. He was instrumental in the development of improved irrigation equipment infrastructure, and initiated a partnership with the City of Tucumcari and the New Mexico Water Trust Board to develop and construct infrastructure to deliver and apply treated municipal waste water to the agricultural science center for agricultural irrigation and research. These efforts have provided significant advances in agricultural sciences for stakeholders in Tucumcari and the region.

Rex was a highly respected and active member of the local community. Following his accidental death on April 9, 2018, the Advisory Committee to the Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari, a group composed of diverse local and regional agricultural producers and businesspeople proposed on December 13, 2018, to honor Rex E. Kirksey by renaming the agricultural science center as the "Rex E. Kirksey Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari". A similar action was taken for the Mora Research Center, which was renamed the "John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center" to honor John Harrington following his tragic death in 2010.

New Mexico State University's Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari is located on U.S. Highway 54 three miles northeast of Tucumcari. In operation since 1912, the center consists of 464 acres. There are 12 buildings (404A-L) on the property with 21,267 sq. feet. The center conducts valued research on livestock and crop production in both dryland and irrigated (potable and reclaimed water) systems, and is home to the Tucumcari bull test. For the reasons noted, we request consideration of the proposed naming opportunity.

CC: Steve Loring, Associate Director, AES
Leonard Lauriault, Superintendent, ASC at Tucumcari



College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

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Rolando A. Flores, Dean and Chief Administrative Officer
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
New Mexico State University
P.O. Box 30003, MSC 3AG
Las Cruces, NM 88003
December 17, 2018

20 DEC '18 AM 9:52

Dear Dean Flores,

The Advisory Committee to New Mexico State University's Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari met on December 13, 2018, and passed a resolution proposes that NMSU rename the facility, the "Rex E. Kirksey Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari." Eleven of twenty committee members were present at the meeting, constituting a quorum. Franklin McCasland moved and Phillip Box seconded the motion to approve the resolution, which carried unanimously. Each committee member present signed the resolution (attached).

On behalf of the Advisory Committee, I ask that you approve the name change and move the resolution through the NMSU system for final approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L. M. Lauriault".

Leonard Lauriault, Superintendent
Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari

Cc: Natalie Goldberg, Associate Dean of ACES and Director of the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station
Steve Loring, Associate Director of the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station
Robert Lopez, Chairman of the Advisory Committee
Ec: L. Lauriault personal file

**Resolution on Renaming New Mexico State University's Agricultural Science
Center at Tucumcari to Honor Rex E. Kirksey
December 13, 2018**

Whereas, New Mexico State University's Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari has been in continuous operation since 1912; and

Whereas, there are no known superintendents of record between 1912 and 1916; and

Whereas, H.G. Smith served as superintendent from 1916 to 1918; and

Whereas, C.B. Brown served from 1918 to 1920; and

Whereas, H.L. Clemmer was acting superintendent from 1920 to early 1922; and

Whereas, Bob Burnham served as superintendent for at most 29 years and 2.5 months (early 1922 – March 16, 1951); and

Whereas, David Williams served as superintendent for 30 years 4.5 months (March 16, 1951 – July 31, 198); and

Whereas, Rex E. Kirksey worked with New Mexico State University from July 1, 1980, until his retirement on June 30, 2012, beginning his career with the University as an Extension agricultural economist program coordinator, based at the Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari; and

Whereas, Rex became the center's superintendent in August 1981, serving in that capacity until June 30, 2012, which was approximately 30 years and 11 months – the longest tenure to date of any superintendent in the center's 106 years of continuous operation – during which time he supported turfgrass, horticultural crop, field crop and livestock research at the center, developed improved irrigation equipment infrastructure, and initiated a partnership with the City of Tucumcari and the New Mexico Water Trust Board to develop and construct infrastructure to deliver and apply treated municipal wastewater to the facility for agricultural irrigation, to name a few of his contributions to New Mexico State University, the region, and the community; and

Whereas, Rex was tragically killed on April 9, 2018, in an ATV rollover while checking cattle at his parents' farm near Tucumcari, as he had since he was a child; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Advisory Committee to the Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari, a diverse group of local and regional agricultural producers and businesspeople:

1. proposes to rename the Agricultural Science Center as the "Rex E. Kirksey Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari," in honor of Rex's service to the University, the region, and the community,
2. urges that signage at the center's entry on US 54 and elsewhere be changed, wherever possible, to reflect the new name, and
3. urges that printed materials (e.g., stationery, future publications) be changed to reflect the new name.

Mover:

Seconders:

Philip M. Ro, Gasper Martinez, Murali Dasapuneem, Cedar Rush, Sean Leagan
Jim NORRIS, Marie Nava, Franklin McOSTARD, Paul Estrada, Janet Shuffell
Aaci Hambrook, Justin Knight, Robert Lopez, L.M. Hammond