

APRIL 2023



FROM THE DESK OF THE **Vice President for Research**

Students, staff, and faculty, I hope you all took the time to rest and do something fun for your spring break. You deserve it!

Now, it's time to get back to work and push toward the research and scholarship goals you've put into place. April is Keep America Beautiful Month, reminding us of the ways we work to improve our environment. Here at UNM, one of our Grand Challenges Level 1 Concept teams is focusing its efforts on just that. The Just Transition Grand Challenges team seeks to identify and evaluate the opportunities, challenges, and policy options for achieving an inclusive and equitable energy transition, with a focus on creating economic opportunities for members of disadvantaged communities—particularly Hispanic, Native, and Black communities and fossil fuel worker communities.

This week also kicks off National Wildlife Week. Did you know New Mexico is home to the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge? The mission of the field station is “to promote understanding and preservation of the natural environment.” The field station facilities are owned and managed by UNM, while research and teaching efforts are carried out in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which manages the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge.

Most recently, in a legislative effort to protect our ecosystems, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed Senate Bill 72 that creates a fund to support the implementation of safe passages around the state, designed to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions and restore habitat connectivity. According to the study, “roughly 1,200 wildlife-vehicle crashes are reported to New Mexico law enforcement every year.”

There are some amazing things happening on our campus and around our state to ensure our future and learn more about our world! Remember to take advantage of each opportunity, Lobos!



Ellen Fisher, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research
Professor of Chemistry

UNM's Lightning Lounge Goes to Washington DC

Here at UNM, some of our traditions are meant for the national spotlight.

More than 110 faculty have presented at what we call our 7-minute Lightning Lounge talks that give faculty the opportunity to highlight their research, scholarship, and outreach activities happening within our communities. Led by UNM Academic Affairs and UNM ADVANCE, the tradition began more than 10 years ago and was reimagined in 2018.

Now, we're taking Lightning Lounge to Washington, D.C., Tuesday, April 18. Four of our faculty members from across main and north campuses will present their research and scholarship at an alumni reception event that includes our legislative delegation as well as UNM leadership and member of the UNM Alumni Association.

Community-Engaged Research Lecture

This month, we're also celebrating the 8th Annual Community Engaged Research Lecture (CERL) with special awardee, Dr. David Schade.

The Annual Community-Engaged Scholarship Lecture Award recognizes exceptional scholarly work that embodies UNM's commitment to community engagement.

Dr. Schade has been a (UNM) School of Medicine faculty member for the last 45 years and has spent his academic research career dedicated to diabetes and cardiovascular research.

Join us in celebrating Dr. Schade's achievements on Wednesday, April 19 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., as he presents "Save Your Heart – Save Your Life."

Qualtrics Day

UNM [Tech Days 2023](#) is just weeks away!

And this year the OVPR will be integrating "Qualtrics Day" at UNM Tech Days on Thursday, April 20. The OVPR, in partnership with the OIA, CULLS, and IT, are offering an array of workshops from Qualtrics 101 to more advanced topics including Qualtrics in the Classroom and Survey Design.



Registration is open until **Monday, April 10**.

UROC Conference

This year's [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference](#) (UROC) will be held in-person Friday, April 21 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the SUB.

The University of New Mexico's Undergraduate Research, Arts & Design Network (URAD) hosts the annual event to give undergraduates the opportunity to spotlight their research, explain their ideas, and display what they have to offer in their respective fields and majors. The schedule is posted [online](#).

Students can present on any research project they have conducted at UNM. Any majors can share their work and display it either as an exhibit or performance.

Research Celebrations

Associate Vice President for Research

We are proud to welcome the newest member of the OVPR, Dr. Omathanu "Om" Perumal.

Perumal comes to UNM from South Dakota State University, where he served as an Associate Dean for Research for two years. During his tenure, he also held positions as the director of the Haarberg Research Center for Drug, Disease, and Delivery, and is a professor of Pharmaceutics in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences. Prior to this, he served as the department head for Pharmaceutical Sciences for eight years and director of the Translational Cancer Research Center at South Dakota State University. With more than 17 years of research experience, Perumal specializes in developing new drug delivery systems using various biomaterials.

Perumal's new role as UNM AVPR will begin July 1.

Welcome to The Pack, Dr. Perumal.

Research Spotlight

Bureau of Business & Economic Research

The [Bureau of Business & Economic Research](#) (BBER) was founded in 1945 with the dual aims of attempting to better understand the state's economy and to assume a leadership role in fostering the economic development of the state. As the important linkages between the economy and society have become clear over time, BBER's research mission has expanded to acknowledge that overlap.

BBER has a long history of conducting broad-based research used to foster a growing and sustainable New Mexico economy and to help develop data-driven policy analysis. Recent examples of research include research scientist Rose Rohrer's analysis of the structure of the New Mexico legislature. That research will be used by the legislature to assess whether legislators should receive salaries, costs and benefits of different legislative session lengths, and the number of staff that each legislator should have. Senior research scientist Julian Baca analyzed the economic and fiscal costs associated with underfunding oil & gas remediation permitting at the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD). Research scientist Omar Solis collaborated with the New Mexico Sentencing Commission to examine the impact to the state of fees charged to criminal

offenders. That research, which estimated the economic and tax impacts to the state, should fees be eliminated for indigent offenders, will be used to reassess the fee structure in New Mexico.

Senior program manager Suzan Reagan is responsible for managing BBER's Data Bank. The Data Bank serves as a coordinating agency for the State Data Center Program which is a joint enterprise of the New Mexico Economic Development Department and the US Census Bureau. Suzan supports BBER's research mission indirectly by providing data to BBER researchers and directly by also engaging in research. Suzan recently completed an analysis of the Santa Fe County housing market which focused on the disconnects between housing supply, demand, and affordability. The Data Bank also interfaces with researchers inside and outside of UNM as well as the general public, and in November the Data Bank will hold its 25th Annual Data Users conference.

BBER Director Michael "Mo" O'Donnell and research scientist Charis Ahrens work together to generate quarterly economic forecasts of the (New Mexico) state and local economies that are used by government and the private sector to develop revenue estimates, budgets, and for strategic planning. A key user of the economic forecasting service is the state's Consensus Revenue Committee, which is responsible for developing and updating the state budget.

Although times have changed in the nearly 80 years since BBER's founding, the continued emphasis on leveraging high quality objective data and developing independent, non-partisan, and unbiased analysis have made BBER an important mainstay in the broader New Mexico policy landscape.

Research News

R&D Week: Early Event Registration

Planning for this year's 2023 Research and Discovery week, Nov 6-12, is underway. Register your event(s) early to request funding and to secure a place for your events on the official calendar.

R&D Week is a campus-wide event that showcase and celebrates the excellence and diversity of UNM's research enterprise, while promoting resources and opportunities available to UNM researchers and fostering the principles of ethical, engaged, collaborative, and fulfilling scholarship.

We aim to highlight a diverse range of research disciplines that will reach all members of our campus, as well as the broader community.

FRESH Applications

The application window remains open for the 2023–2024 cohort of the Fostering Research Expansion in Social Sciences and Humanities (FRESH) Program.

FRESH will support a cohort of faculty, staff, and postdocs from the social sciences, humanities, and arts to develop research concepts and proposals suitable for extramural funding, with a focus on federal opportunities.



FOSTERING RESEARCH EXPANSION

FRESH

IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



[Applications](#) are due April 20, 2023.

Zancada Applications

We are seeking applicants for the 2023-2024 cohort of [Zancada Graduate Fellows](#).

The Zancada (Spanish for “stride”) program creates a cohort of future leaders in science, technology, humanities, and the arts who are well-prepared and committed to finding interdisciplinary, actionable, and meaningful solutions to global problems.

Zancada Fellowships recognize the remarkable accomplishments of the selected graduate students and provide a valuable training opportunity to develop professional skills and encourage interdisciplinary and community engagement among fellows.

[Applications](#) are due April 14.

Grand Challenges Level 2 Update

The Grand Challenges Program is still accepting proposals for interdisciplinary research teams to join the [Level 2 Grand Challenges](#).

[Applications](#) are due Monday, May 1.

In April, we will also be accepting nominations for new members of the Grand Challenges Advisory Council and will seek reviewers for the Level 2 competition. For more information on any of these opportunities, please email: grandchallenges@unm.edu.

Women in STEM

UNM faculty have until Monday, May 1 to submit a proposal for the Women in STEM Faculty Development Fund 2023.

The funds are used to support UNM assistant and associate STEM professors with establishing new research areas and developing research collaborations.

For this award, STEM faculty are defined as those with research interests that align with research priorities identified by NSF, NIH (non-clinical), or DOE. This includes the social sciences. Three types of awards are available:

1. Travel awards to foster collaborations.
2. Seed awards to stimulate research projects that will lead to additional external funding.
3. Workshop awards designed to generate innovative research ideas and collaborations.

Did you know?

In 1920, a sophomore suggested UNM adopt an official mascot and put forth the idea of a Lobo, the Spanish word for *wolf*.

An alumnus from the class of 1902 preceded to retrieve the first live lobo to attend sporting events. Years later, in place of the live wolf, UNM created Lobo Louie, a human wolf mascot costume to cheer for the Lobos at sporting events.

In the 1980's, a female mascot by the name of Lobo Lucy was added to The Pack.

Read more [here](#).