



Dear Research Colleagues & Community,

Spring is here! As the weather warms bringing beautiful blossoms and adorable baby birds and animals, we are reminded (in between allergy-induced sneezes) that spring represents an opportunity for growth, new beginnings, the chance to refresh our outlook and perhaps take on different challenges.

In that vein, at the OVPR, we are busy preparing for the [Quantum New Mexico Symposium](#), presented by UNM, Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), which runs March 31st–April 1st. The symposium also features the launch of a joint quantum initiative between UNM and SNL. Quantum Science and Technology is one of our strategic areas of focus and we are pleased to host this in-person event at UNM. Thanks to the many individuals who contributed their time and expertise— including UNM Professors Ivan Deutsch, Edl Schamiloglu, and Elohim Becerra; and David Kistin, Setso Metodi, and Jake Douglass of SNL; Candace Culhane of LANL; plus UNM staff Irene Gray, Rachel Whitt, Hannah Torres, Gloria Quintana, Anita Grierson, Natalie Rogers, and our students Risa Smith and Lauren Taylor—we expect this to be a very successful and collaborative event.

In addition, the new OVPR Zancada Graduate Fellowship application deadline is this Monday, April 4th. The Zancada (Spanish for “stride”) program will create 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. Apply on our InfoReady portal: unm.infoready4.com.

And finally, we are pleased to announce a new chapter in UNM’s Presidential Grand Challenges Program. President Stokes launched three Grand Challenges Team in 2019, all of which have realized an enormous return on the initial investment with ~200 researchers engaged in pilot and seed funding projects. This innovative program also stimulated increased capacity for networking among faculty and engagement with the community.

To build on and further broaden our collective impact, this spring we reimagined the Grand Challenges Program with three levels of participation: **Level 1** introduces new Grand Challenge concept teams to structured team building and planning exercises; **Level 2** implements team

plans, focusing on answering critical research questions, building capacity for interdisciplinary research, and communicating opportunities and outcomes to the broader public; and **Level 3** moves teams towards large, sustainable research structures such as Centers or Institutes. The process is flexible, allowing for multiple entry and exit points for teams and individuals and provides appropriate funding at each level.

The new Grand Challenges Program will grow and foster a culture of collaboration and team research, allowing for engagement of faculty, researchers, staff, and students more broadly across the University. This program will continue to build UNM's capacity and reputation for discovery and innovation while achieving UNM Research strategic goals and President Stokes' UNM2040 vision. To get involved and learn more, consider attending or developing a [Grand Challenges discussion session](#); [check out the new RFP for Level 1 teams](#); and attend the Grand Challenges Open Forum Session on April 19, during the [Team Research Symposium](#). For more information, please contact our Grand Challenges Director, Anita Grierson, agrierson@unm.edu.

2022 is already off to an exciting start, so I'll leave you with this bit of spring-inspired wisdom:

"No matter how chaotic it is, wildflowers will still spring up in the middle of nowhere."

—Sheryl Crow

Best wishes,
-Ellen

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