

# FROM THE DESK OF THE Vice President for Research



New Challenges Await...

Last week, University of New Mexico President Garnett S. Stokes announced the three newest multi-disciplinary teams to join the Grand Challenges program as Level 2 teams and I join in the excitement as we welcome:

Child Health

Just Transition to Green Energy

Sustainable Space Research

This past winter we put out a request for proposals (RFP) for the Level 2 competition to all main campus, branch campus, and health sciences research teams interested in working collaboratively to address some of New Mexico's most pressing challenges. We received 12 competitive proposals from research areas that spanned across multiple disciplines.

In reviewing the 12 Level 2 proposals, we were incredibly delighted to see what the reimagined Grand Challenges program produced. I can't stress enough how exceptional, creative, and dedicated UNM researcher are to asking tough questions and finding unique solutions. All the proposals spoke to the needs of New Mexicans and had a deep-rooted sense of place. Our Grand Challenges program truly embodies our institutional values, and I am very proud of everyone who participated in the process.



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

## Grand Challenges Day & Team Research Symposium

If you haven't registered for Grand Challenges Day and the Team Research Symposium, you're just one click away. This one-day event, Thursday, Sept. 14, will feature workshops, panels, and presentations highlighting best practices in team research across campus.

You will also have the opportunity to learn more about our Grand Challenges program, including meeting the Level 1 and new Level 2 teams, and how you can get involved.



## Postdoctoral Research Symposium

UNM is set to host an inaugural New Mexico Postdoctoral Research Symposium on Friday, Sept. 22.

The event is the perfect opportunity for UNM postdocs to present their research in front of the campus community. Postdocs will have the chance to network, share ideas, receive feedback, and initiate collaborations with others at UNM and institutions across New Mexico.

UNM recently established the [Office for Postdoctoral Affairs](#) to recognize the importance of postdocs to the research enterprise, and to provide specific resources and programming for postdocs at UNM.

National Postdoc Appreciation Week will take place Sept 18-23.

## Research Administration Symposium

Registration is open for the 2023 Research Administrators Symposium.

The 7<sup>th</sup> annual event will feature a great line-up for research administrators this year. The symposium will be held in Sept. 25-27. An in-person reception will kick-start two half-days of virtual informative sessions and workshops.

## Research Celebrations

### 2023 Faculty Mentored Research Award winners

Congratulations to Professor Yolanda Lin and Anistasia Baca!

These two researchers have been named the recipients of the 2023 UNM Faculty Mentored Research Award. This award honors the outstanding examples of collaborative partnerships between a UNM undergraduate researcher and their faculty mentor.

Lin and Baca's research project focused on building flood resilience in Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo.

The duo will be recognized during Research and Discovery Week in November.

### NSF Using the Rules of Life to Address Societal Challenges program

A UNM group of researchers are tackling a longtime problem facing our Native American communities in New Mexico – toxic heavy metals left behind after uranium mining.

The new \$3 million NSF funded project will be a multi-disciplinary effort from research areas spanning across campus. Some of the work will take place at one of UNM's Category 3 centers, Center for Micro-Engineered Materials (CMEM).

The diversity of this team really highlights the strength, depth and breadth of the UNM research enterprise. UNM's CMEM researchers will have the opportunity to apply their science and engineering innovations side-by-side with researchers who focus on other aspects of this critical issue like public policy and ethics. This project also partners with Navajo Technical University.

### Integrating catchment expansion-contraction into cross-continental hydrobiogeochemical prediction

The great news and collaborations continue...

This fall, UNM faculty will also lead a \$2.5 million grant that will have researchers concentrating on five very different headwater stream networks spread throughout the country. The DOE funded project includes observing waterflow and precipitation, while understanding the spatial structure of each watershed in terms of how it influences water quality and quantity, and ultimately how all this changes throughout time in response to changing patterns of precipitation and drought.



Research News?

### OSP Updates

UNM Associate Vice President for Research Om Perumal has been working closely with the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSP) and recently released information on some pertinent updates regarding staffing, current awards and contracting processes.

All principal investigators should make sure to read through updated changes.

## CARC Workshops

The Center for Advanced Research Computing (CARC) will offer several fall workshops, tailored to both beginners and intermediate users of high-performance computing (HPC) resources. In these workshops, participants will learn about Linux and HPC, computer-related topics that are used for advanced research.

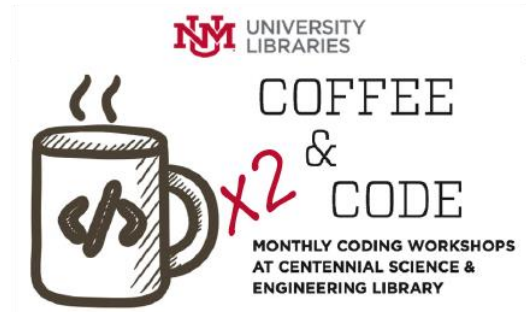
The workshops will be offered both in-person and on Zoom. To register, please visit the [workshop and seminar calendar](#).

## PERC

The Request for Proposals is now open for UNM's WeR1 Program for Enhancing Research Capacity's (PERC).

PERC supports the acquisition of shared instrumentation or enhancement of shared facilities that enable major endeavors to advance discovery, creativity, and innovation across campus. Up to \$600,000 will be invested in this funding cycle.

Proposals may be led by any UNM faculty or staff member with a primary appointment on central campus who is eligible to serve as a PI according to UNM policies.



Did you know?

The first 'Green Chile Across America' were held in 1997 during the Alumni Association's Centennial Celebration.

UNM Alumni Chapters across the nation prepare all spring to roast multiple tons of green chile for their local Green Chile Roasts and Alumni Picnics. Between August and October, across the nation Association chapters roasting more than six tons of chile annually.