

FROM THE DESK OF THE
Vice President for Research



It's officially my favorite time of year in New Mexico!

Hot air balloons fill the skies during our morning commute - not to mention the new UNM "Cherry on Top" balloon - leaves around campus are beginning to change color, and research activity at The University of New Mexico is at an all-time high.

I'm excited to report FY23 measures of research excellence for UNM main and branch campuses:

Research Expenditures: \$147 Million

Research Awards: 727

Students Researchers Supported: 1,052

Researchers, you should be so proud of the work you have accomplished in the last year. You're collaborating, innovating, and most importantly impacting the lives of New Mexicans and those beyond our state lines with your contributions to research and scholarship. I can't wait to celebrate the achievements we've made in the last year during Research and Discovery Week.



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

Special Message from the VPR

The Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) program has moved to the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (ORIC). Creating an environment that promotes and fosters research integrity is critical to achieving excellence in research and maintaining public trust in research outcomes at UNM. I truly appreciate your attention to these important elements of our research ecosystem. The new RCR Certification website and associated [training plan](#) are now available [here](#).

We have also enlisted UNM Professor Heather Canavan, as a special assistant to the VPR, to help develop a comprehensive RCR educational program.

An inaugural RCR Symposium will be held in the Physics & Astronomy Interdisciplinary Science (PAIS) building, Thursday, Oct. 19. The **RCR Symposium** will bring together faculty, staff, and students from various disciplines interested in learning and discussing topics related to the responsible and ethical conduct of research. This training meets RCR certification requirements for all federal entities (NIH, NSF, USDA, etc.).

Research and Discovery Week

Join UNM's Office of the Vice President for Research, and many of our departments around campus, in celebrating our vibrant UNM research community during the second annual [Research & Discovery Week](#), Nov. 4-11.

Stay tuned as our calendar develops. There is something for everyone, including students, faculty, staff, legislators, community partners, and the general public.

Research Celebrations

ARID

Last month, we celebrated the launch of our newest Level 2 Grand Challenges Teams, and the launch of UNM's newest category 3 institute: ARID – Accelerating Resilience Innovations for Drylands.

One of the true success stories of the Grand Challenges program is the Sustainable Water Resources team. This team had some big wins and secured significant extramural funding in their first few years. They also highlighted our need to really showcase all of the amazing work we do, across the institution, that could come under the large umbrella of “sustainable water.”

Ultimately, we decided that we really needed to ‘level up’ in this area to not only raise visibility around all of the work we do in this arena, but also to acknowledge that UNM is truly a leader when it comes to innovative solutions to such pressing challenges as clean water, clean energy, and the impacts of climate change.

Lobos, welcome...

Anne-Laure “Anlo” Schmitt-Olivier who joined the OVPR in August and serves as the research translation officer for the newly created Office of Faculty Research Translation. Her role involves collaborating with various UNM entities to help faculty understand potential avenues for research translation.

She is a registered patent agent and holds a master’s in chemistry, and a degree in IP Law. Anlo enjoys reading, cooking, and exploring New Mexico through its diverse range of hiking trails and dynamic culinary and craft beer scenes.

Say hello to ...

Titus Ortiz who serves as the program coordinator for the UNM Grand Challenges Program, facilitating on-campus logistics between the various teams.

Previously, Titus also served as an EMT-Basic/Firefighter and has worked in clinical settings at UNMH. Titus is currently on the Board of Canon De Carnue Land Grant, as well as Las Placitas Presbyterian Church.

Titus spends most of his time with his family -- hiking or rock climbing -- when he is not working.

Research News?

OSP Backlog

The UNM [Office of Sponsored Projects](#) (OSP) has been working diligently over the last few months to address the award backlog. I'm happy to announce that OSP has processed more than 600 award actions from April through September and met its goal to process all awards by this month. I know how hard this team has worked and the pressure they have been under to hit targeted processing times. We appreciate everyone’s patience during this time.

Moving forward, principal investigators, account administrator, and associate deans of research with award actions in process can see the award set up status of their grants and contracts by using [Smartsheet](#).

First step: Users *must* set up a free Smartsheet account if they *do not* have one.

It’s (Probably) Not Rocket Science

UNM launched a new podcast that will help make complex research topics easier to understand. “It’s (Probably) Not Rocket Science” airs bi-weekly and will unravel the complexities of hot topics and pertinent, impactful research through conversations with esteemed UNM faculty, creators, and researchers.

The show will bring listeners casual conversations from an R1 University with very high levels of research activity that impacts the world.

Did you know?



Albuquerque is in the direct path [to view the annular eclipse](#) and is a prime location for an awe-inspiring display for all to see. Other parts of the southwest will *only* see a partial solar eclipse.

The UNM Department of Physics & Astronomy, along with faculty, students, and staff, will host a viewing event on UNM's Johnson Field this Saturday, Oct. 14 beginning at 8:30 a.m.