

FROM THE DESK OF THE

Vice President for Research

April 2024

Lobos,

Lately, I've been super focused on our future research goals, but here I want to take the time to briefly recap and celebrate two events that happened last month, the 2024 State of Research and the 68th Annual Research Lecture (ARL).

This is the third time our office has hosted the State of Research where we applaud the prior year's research projects, accomplishments, and successes to see how far we've come. This year, I wanted to focus on the future, the 'where we're going' rather than the 'where we've been' because I believe we are poised to make an even bigger impact than the one we're already making in the communities around us. The primary reason lies in the outstanding faculty, staff, and student researchers we have at The University of New Mexico. In addition, I think it is also time we really think about not only the measures of research excellence, but also the mechanisms by which we can achieve more. This will require a focus on important issues such as strategic and intentional faculty recruitment and retention, improvements to research spaces and facilities, diversifying our research portfolio, increasing interdisciplinary (and cross-campus) research, and building more enriching student experiences. These are important and necessary steps we must take to fully realize our collective potential as a flagship R1 institution.

Last month, we also celebrated the ARL with UNM Distinguished Professor Felisa Smith. I wish everyone on campus could have experienced the passion and bliss Professor Smith demonstrated as she discussed her work as a paleoecologist. The lecture was engaging and accessible to a wide audience and I was struck not only by the amazing body of work Smith, students, and colleagues have achieved, but also by her ability to tell a compelling and engaging story around those data. Not to mention, she brought hands-on show and tell props from her lab! This year's lecture epitomizes the life-changing research I know happens every day across our campuses.

I will end my message by also congratulating three Lobos named 2024 honorees in the Albuquerque Business First 40 Under 40 edition that celebrate business leaders and young professionals making a positive impact in New Mexico.



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

Nick Ferenchak | Assistant Professor | University of New Mexico Gerald May Department of Civil,
Construction & Environmental Engineering

Randy Ko | MD/Ph.D. Candidate | University of New Mexico School of Medicine

Cecelia (Pacheco) Becenti | Program Manager | UNM Rainforest Innovations

April Safety Spotlight

In research, we are often working on projects that are breaking new ground, experiments that no one has ever done before, and truly creating new knowledge for people around the globe.

It can be incredibly exciting, but it also means things can go wrong. Take a moment before starting a new project to think about what hazards might exist and take the steps to mitigate or prevent those things from happening. This is called (obviously enough!) a “hazards assessment.”

Hazards assessments don't have to be complicated or take time away from your project but are essential to working safely. Remember that the choices you make affect not only you, but your family, your coworkers, and UNM as a whole. Safe research is excellent research.

Research Events

UROC

The Undergraduate Research Opportunity Conference is scheduled for Friday, April 12.

UROC is a annual University conference that promotes student research through oral presentations, poster sessions, and more. For a full schedule of events click [here](#).

AI & Research

Learn how faculty at the College of Arts & Sciences are using AI in their research. Join researchers April 17 from 12-1:30 p.m., in the Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom C.

Please [register to attend](#).

STEM Education Grant Writing Symposium

The UNM Faculty Resource Development Office is partnering with the Level One STEM Education Grand Challenge Team to help support related multi-disciplinary and multi-division grant proposals.

The Symposium will be held in the SUB Thursday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Symposium will include two concurrent sessions in the morning, a working lunch, and two concurrent sessions in the afternoon.

Learn more and register [here](#).

Research & Compliance

Curious to know more about the new NSF requirement for the Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research, specifically focused on mentorship training, [register now](#).

The workshop will be held virtually **April 23**.

IRB Recruitment

UNM IRB is recruiting faculty to serve on its board. The time commitment includes new member orientation, initial CITI training, one two-hour meeting each month and prep time of two hours prior to the monthly meeting.

Please email Linda Mayo (petreel@unm.edu) if interested.

Research Technology

SAVERS

The deadline to submit an application for the Spring 2024 cycle of the Scholarly Advancement Via Enterprise Research Software (SAVERS) program is approaching.

The submission deadline is Friday, April 19.

The SAVERS program supports acquisition of shared enterprise software licenses that enable major endeavors to advance discovery, creativity, and innovation across campus.

Apply [here](#).

Did you know?

April 6 is National Library Day.

University Libraries recently announced the recipients of 2024 Undergraduate Library Research Award. Read more [here](#).