

FROM THE DESK OF THE

Vice President for Research

February 2024

Lobos,

As we begin to celebrate Black History Month at The University of New Mexico, it's not only an opportunity to focus on all the accomplishments and contributions of Black people around the world, but essential that we highlight UNM researchers and scholars who have significantly impacted our communities.

We have so many student and faculty researchers focused on Africana Studies, investigating "African descended peoples' experiences from the perspective of their interests, aspirations, possibilities, and envisioned destinies."

Here are three of our University researchers who are making a difference through their work.



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

February's Safety Tip

UNM recently completed a comprehensive safety culture assessment, managed by Propulo Consulting. The assessment (that included a survey, site visits, and focus group discussions) targeted workplace safety for staff in Facilities Management as well as across the research enterprise at UNM. Results, recommendations, and strategies are initially being shared with our Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) group, Facilities Management, the OVPR, and other University leadership. The OVPR will be seeking ways to help address safety concerns within the research environment and we welcome your suggestions.

Look for more information and implementation of recommendations arising from this assessment coming soon! Safe research is excellent research.

Research Celebrations

UNM Launches New Institute

New Mexico scientists played a pioneering role in the development of Quantum Informational Science; now UNM is partnering with [Sandia National Laboratories](#) to launch the University's newest Category 3 research center, the Quantum New Mexico Institute (QNM-I).

We are extremely pleased to build off UNM's rich history in Quantum Information Science (QIS) and create the QNM-I as a truly interdisciplinary and multi-institutional endeavor housed under the auspices of the [UNM Office of the Vice President for Research](#). The establishment of the QNM-I will undoubtedly solidify UNM's place as a leader in the second quantum revolution, provide extraordinary experiences for students and postdocs, and create an unparalleled regional ecosystem for QIS.

Read more [here](#).

Celebrating Rosa Gonzalez-Rosenblatt

Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) Director Rosa Gonzalez-Rosenblatt retired at the end of January. For the last 25 years, Rosa made invaluable contributions to OSP as well as the entire UNM research enterprise. We can't thank her enough for her expertise in research administration and her dedication to the entire research enterprise. Scores of PIs and other researchers have benefited from her ability to quickly address issues in the most professional manner. She will be missed!

In the coming weeks, the OVPR will initiate a national search to fill the vacated position. During this interim period, OSP staff will be reporting to UNM Assistant Vice President for Research Om Perumal. Please feel free to reach out to Om if you have questions or concerns related to OSP.

Tribal Government Textbook

This celebration is one story for the history books, which is fitting, as the [news itself](#) is about a history

book.

A devoted team of UNM Native American professors are planning, developing, and writing the first-ever tribal government textbook for young adults.

Congratulations to American Studies Professor Jennifer Denetdale and Ph.D. student Kara Roanhorse, as well as Native American Studies Professors Wendy Greyeyes and Lloyd Lee.



Research News?

2024 State of Research

Join us for the 2024 UNM State of Research.

It's been a very busy and productive year for all UNM researchers – faculty, students, and staff. I truly believe research is at an all-time high at UNM and the numbers prove it. We have so much to celebrate from the launch of ARID and QNM-I to welcoming three new Level 2 Grand Challenges teams.

Stay-tuned for an invite!

ARL Honoree

University of New Mexico Distinguished Professor Felisa Smith has been named the honoree for the 68th Annual Research Lectureship for Career Achievement award.

Smith is a distinguished professor in the UNM Department of Biology, and her research successes reach far beyond our university community. Smith has a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of California Irvine. She is a mammologist, focusing her research interests on paleoecological and evolutionary research—specifically the effects of current global and past climatic change and biodiversity loss on mammals. We look forward to Dr. Smith's lecture later this spring. Keep an eye out for additional details.

Read more [here](#).

OVPR seeking Executive Assistant

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) is seeking a highly motivated, detail-oriented, results-driven, proactive, and resourceful individual to join our team as an executive assistant.

A complete application will consist of the following:

1. Resume
2. Cover Letter detailing how the candidate meets the preferred qualifications
3. Three Supervisory References

Applications are due by Feb. 19. [Apply here](#).

Globally-Engaged Research Awards

We are now accepting nominations for the [Globally-Engaged Research Awards](#) that highlight the dynamic international research conducted by UNM faculty and students.

Three awards will be given:

- Faculty award (\$5,000)
- Graduate student award (\$1,500)
- Deborah Rifembary Memorial Undergraduate Student Award (\$1,000).

Nominations for the 2024 awards must be submitted via [InfoReady](#) by Thursday, Feb. 29. Eligibility is limited to main and branch campuses.

U-RISE Applications

[Applications](#) are now being accepted for the next U-RISE cohort. [U-RISE](#) supports motivated students from underrepresented groups to pursue graduate education in biomedical research.

For best consideration, applications should be submitted by Friday, March 1. Apply to U-RISE by sending an email to urise@unm.edu that includes:

- Name, expected graduation date, major(s), and Banner ID
- A brief description of why you are interested in U-RISE that includes your career goals, if known

Did you know?

Our normal calendar years are typically 365 days long, or the number of days it takes Earth to orbit the sun. However, 365 days is a rounded number. It *actually* takes 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 56 seconds for the Earth to orbit completely.

Leap years allow our calendar to stay on track with the Earth's actual orbit and not have our seasons drift, as our equinoxes and summer and winter solstices would no longer align with the seasons.

Therefore, in a leap year, we add one more day to February, making it 29 days long. Enjoy the “extra” day this month and celebrate a researcher or a research accomplishment!