

FROM THE DESK OF THE

# Vice President for Research

*May 2024*

Another semester in the books, Lobos!

Congratulations to all students graduating this Spring semester and a special thank you to all the faculty and staff mentors who have helped guide our students along their academic journeys. You all have so much to be proud of and I hope those students who had the opportunity to participate in research activities value the experience and apply the tools they learned to other areas of their lives and/or (of course) continue to expand their research endeavors.

This year I celebrated three years at The University of New Mexico. Wow! To be honest, there are days when it feels incredibly familiar and comfortable, like I've been here forever. Then there are days I realize I still have much to learn about UNM, our amazing research community, and New Mexico itself. It has been a real source of joy for me to work with UNM leadership and our community through the pandemic recovery process. Watching, assisting, and cheering on faculty, staff, and students as they returned with a sharper focus on creating new knowledge through innovative and novel ways post pandemic should give us all a sense of pride. I also want to give a huge shout out to the OVPR team who also contributed much to our recovery from the pandemic. We have incredibly dedicated, creative, and knowledgeable staff who have a true "can do" attitude. But your feedback concerning what we can do to further advance research, scholarship, and creativity across our campuses is essential to our reaching our research goals. Please let us know your thoughts and ideas!



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

# May Safety Spotlight

This month let's focus on field research safety. There are different risks researchers face when they are out in the field, and the first thing everyone should be familiar with before starting any field research project is their Field Research Safety Plan, which could include hazards and other considerations for maintaining excellence in field research. Notably, NSF has instituted requirements for the BIO and GEO divisions regarding inclusion of Safe and Inclusive Fieldwork (SAIF) plan as a supplemental document in proposals. SAIF plans help field researchers consider the unique challenges that might exist for their team, steps to create inclusive and safe working environments, best practices in communications, and organizational mechanisms for addressing destructive situations should they arise.

Please visit UNM's Environmental Health & Safety website which has a list of tools and templates available that provide researchers in all research environments the necessary guidance to help identify work risks and hazards (including those you might only encounter in the field).

## Research Celebrations

### 2024 Globally-Engaged Research Awardees

One of the initiatives instituted since my arrival at UNM is the development of new ways to recognize the contributions of UNM researchers. Thus, I am super excited to announce this year's recipients of the Globally-Engaged Research Awards:

- 2024 Faculty Awardee | Professor Subhankar Banerjee
- 2024 Graduate Student Awardee | Ruizhe Liu
- 2024 Deborah Rifenburg Memorial Undergraduate Student Awardee | Ian Hutchinson

The OVPR partners with the Global Education Office (GEO) to highlight the dynamic international research conducted by UNM faculty and students each year. Congratulations to the 2024 recipients. Read more about their contributions to UNM's research enterprise [here](#).

### Indigenous Child Language Learning

UNM's Indigenous Child Language Research Center (ICLRC) will host the first Child Language Acquisition Symposium for Indigenous Communities (CLASIC) on May 17-18.

CLASIC will be held at the UNM Hibben Center. ICLRC was established two years ago to research how young children acquire the Indigenous languages of New Mexico. ICLRC will bring language nest representatives, parents of children in nests, and researchers on these programs and languages to Albuquerque for CLASIC.

Great work, researchers!

### Bees in the Southwest

I love to hear about the successes of not only our researchers but about our UNM alum.

New research published by UNM alumnus Melanie Kazenel and colleagues predict climate change will reshape bee communities in the southwest United States, with some thriving and others declining. The research was recently published in *Nature*, an international journal publishing peer-reviewed research in all fields of science and technology.

Kazenel completed her Ph.D. in Biology at UNM in 2022.



## Research News

### Welcome to the team...

Mary Olson. Mary joined our team last month as executive assistant to the VPR.

Mary has more than 30 years of experience working in higher education taking on various administrative roles. She is a Chicago native but has traveled the world with her husband who served in the military for 20 years.

Her favorite dish to cook is lasagna; if she's not cooking or traveling, she's taking her 15-year-old pup, Natasha on long walks around Albuquerque.

Please reach out to Mary to connect with me!

### FRESSH 2024-2025 Cohort

The 2024–2025 Fostering Research Excellence in Social Sciences & Humanities (FRESSH) Program will focus on awareness of internal resources, targeted training for opportunity scoping, concept and proposal development, and building community.

Monthly 90-minute in-person sessions will take place on Friday mornings throughout the academic year.

Applications are due May 29.

### WeR1: FaST

The Faculty Success Scholarship Time (FaST) program enhances capacity to “level-up” research, scholarship, and creative activities by reducing teaching loads for tenure-track and tenured faculty. FaST provides funding for a one-semester, one-course reduction in the applicant’s teaching load or support for a graduate project assistant (PA) to assist with course-related duties. Applicants must discuss their proposal with their department chair before submitting.

Applications are due May 20.

### Faculty-Mentored Research Award

The UNM Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and the Undergraduate Research, Arts and Design Network (URAD) are seeking nominations for the **Faculty-Mentored Research Award**. This joint award is given annually to an outstanding undergraduate researcher and their faculty research mentor based upon the demonstration of a strong research partnership.

Nominations are due May 31.

## Summary Salary Guide

Our 2024 Summer Research Faculty Guidelines have been posted on the Office for Academic Personnel website.

Please review and submit any questions to OAP.

## Fringe Memo

Every year, the OVPR makes updates to Fringe benefits for research proposals.

Please see our latest updates for FY25.

## R&D Week

Save the *DATES*, researchers! This year's Research & Discovery Week is on the books for Novembers 8-15 (keep in mind November 8 is also National STEM/STEAM Day).

To feature your event during the 2024 Research & Discovery Week, contact Assistant Vice President for Research Melissa Emery Thompson at [memery@unm.edu](mailto:memery@unm.edu)

## Did you know?



UNM Political Science Professor Mala Htun has just been elected as a member of The American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

The Academy elected its first members in 1781 and announced its newest members last month. Htun is among 250 members elected, recognized for their excellence within the academy and invited to uphold the mission of engaging across disciplines and divides.