

Dear Research Colleagues & Community,

All, as we enter the remaining weeks of the fall semester, I would like to update everyone on some of the OVPR's recent initiatives. In summer 2021, the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) launched the WeR1 Faculty Success Program in collaboration with the Office of Academic Affairs and ADVANCE at UNM. The Program supports the goals of UNM 2040 and provides a platform for creating a vibrant and inclusive research enterprise that supports all faculty, enhances opportunities for interdisciplinary work, and fosters successful faculty recruitment, retention, and advancement. Thus far, a combined 115 faculty have been awarded over \$780,000 to support their research and creative works.

The pilot initiative—Summer Research for Faculty (SuRF)—was [announced in June](#) and supported the hiring of graduate and undergraduate research students, scholarly writing activities, professional travel, repair or replacement of equipment, and incentives for human subject research. Our research community continues to benefit from these investments; we will use impact data from this year's awards to inform development of next year's SuRF program.

Following SuRF's success, we launched the Program for Enhancing Research Capacity (PERC), which provides support for shared equipment and instrumentation or enhancement of shared facilities, and Faculty Scholarship Time (FaST), a program that provides funding for faculty to receive either a one-semester, one-course reduction in their teaching load or support for a graduate assistant. The RFP for the next round of FaST (for Fall 2022) is available and [applications are due in InfoReady](#) by **December 10, 2021**. Awardees will be announced at the beginning of Spring 2022 semester. The next round of PERC will be announced soon. More information, including PERC awardee details and applicant information about FaST, can be found on [our website](#).

Although the WeR1 Faculty Success initiative is still in its infancy, it is gratifying to see the collective impact and momentum these programs have already catalyzed within the UNM research community. We plan to expand the steering committee and other partnerships, address additional issues and barriers to faculty success (especially in light of COVID-related impacts on scholarship), and develop new WeR1 programs to enrich and support discovery and innovation at UNM.

Notably, the WeR1 Faculty Success Program was recently highlighted by President Stokes at a Board of Regents meeting. I was delighted by the clear demonstration of tremendous support and enthusiasm our President, Provost, and Board of Regents have for this program and for creating an environment at UNM in which all faculty will thrive.

As always, I welcome your thoughts and suggestions for other ways in which the WeR1 Faculty Success initiative can support faculty.

Best wishes,
-Ellen