



COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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WELCOME TO THE A&S NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE

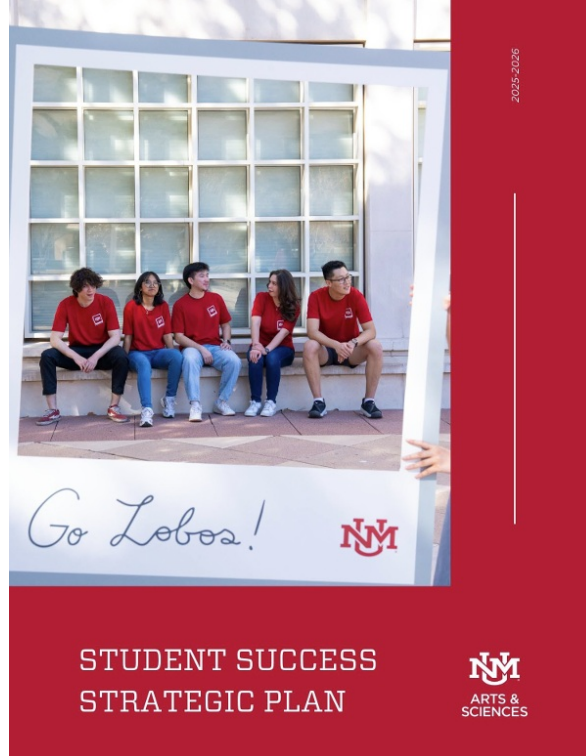
This month brings multiple opportunities to connect with the College on our shared work and future, including:

- The newly released Student Success Strategic Plan
- The second Monthly Mingle on the Road and
- The first official look at the Humanities & Social Sciences Building's design

Find more details below: we hope to see you there!

–A&S Dean's Office Staff

Introducing the College's Student Success Strategic Plan



The College's Student Success Strategic Plan sets ambitious graduation and retention goals for 2030 while emphasizing high impact practices like undergraduate research and first-year experiences.

Thanks to all who contributed from across the University!



UPCOMING EVENTS

College's First Look at the New Humanities & Social Sciences (HSS) Building

[Studio Tsien](#) and [SMPC Architects](#) will present the building's design, concept, and features.

Date: Tuesday, September 30

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: SUB Ballrooms A&B

Watch a short (humorous) video of the Humanities Building's demolition below.



Sign Up for Staff Coffee with the Dean

Date: November 20, 2025

Dean Malat is hosting small gatherings (around 10 people) for staff to discuss ideas, share what's working well, and address challenges. [Sign up for these limited-capacity sessions](#) to speak directly to College leadership in an informal setting.



Save the Date: Fall Monthly Mingles and A&S Town Hall

This fall's Mingles are on the road due to the Humanities Building demolition. Look for us the first Thursdays of the month at noon at these College locations:

- **October 2:** Maxwell Museum Courtyard
 - **November 6:** PAIS Courtyard
 - **December 4:** Center for Academic Success
-



International Studies Institute (ISI) Fall Lecture Series

Theme: Civil Wars | Ortega Hall 335, 3:30–4:30 PM | [Full schedule of events](#)
Contact [Stephen Bishop](#) with questions.

Latin American & Iberian Institute (LAI) Welcome Reception

September 18, 3:30–4:30 PM | LAI, 801 Yale Blvd NE | [Additional details](#)
Open to all UNM community members, students, and faculty interested in Latin America.



GOOD NEWS & UPDATES

Faculty Recognition & Project Spotlight

Dr. Jamal Martin (Africana Studies) was featured in *UpLift Chronicles*. [View the interview here.](#)

Co-curators: **Dr. Jennifer Denetdale (American Studies)** and Lillia McEnaney showcase their work, ["*Nothing Left for Me": Federal Policy and the Photography of Milton Snow in Diné Bikéyah*](#), in the Maxwell Museum. On display until December 6th.

The Department of Economics hosted the 4th Annual New Mexico Economics Research Day showcasing faculty and student projects addressing critical state issues. [Read more here.](#)

Distinguished Professor Emeritus Paul Andrew Hutton (History) joined [The New York Times Best Seller List](#) at #12 for his hardcover nonfiction, *The Undiscovered Country*.

Dr. Luke Gorton (Languages, Cultures, & Literatures) published [Tracing Origins of Wine in the Ancient Mediterranean](#) with Routledge.

UNM Schwoebel Lab earned \$1.56M NIH award (Physics & Astronomy) to improve breast cancer imaging. [Learn more.](#)

Research & Graduate Studies:

Sharon Erickson Nepstad



FUNDING & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR FACULTY

The College is accepting applications for:

- **Subvention Support Program**—Up to \$3,000 for book monographs or research publication for copy editing, indexing, copyrights, open access fees, and more. Preference given to those without alternative funding or who haven't received subvention funds in the past three years. *Deadline: Friday, Sept. 19* (via [InfoReady](#)).
- **Travel Support Program**—Up to \$2,000 for faculty presenting research at professional conferences or workshops. Open to tenure-track, research faculty, and lecturers. Preference for applicants without alternative funding, those presenting research-in-progress, and those who haven't received funds in the past three years. *Deadline: Friday, Sept. 19* (via [InfoReady](#)).
- **Event Support Program**—Up to \$3,000 for scholarly events hosted by A&S by departments, academic programs, interdisciplinary teams, and Category II research centers. Supported events may include invited speaker lectures or series, conferences, or workshops. *Deadline: Friday, Sept. 19* (via [InfoReady](#)).

Newly Funded Projects

NSF & NIH-Funded Research

- **Karl E. Karlstrom (Earth & Planetary Sciences)**—Collaborative Research: BoCP-Implementation: US-China: Multi-Scale, Multi-Proxy, Integrative Investigation of Functional Biodiversity on a Changing Proterozoic Planet. Sponsor: National Science Foundation
- **Marcy E. Litvak (Biology)**—STEM Pathways and Research Alliances: New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation. Sponsor: New Mexico State University
- **Sheng Liu (Physics & Astronomy)**—High Speed, High Information Content Single-Molecule Techniques for Studying Protein Interactions and Organizations in Cells. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
- **Irene Salinas (Biology)**—Modernization and Expansion of Recirculating Zebrafish Tanks and Monitoring Equipment at UNM Main Campus Castetter Hall Animal Resource Facility. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health
- **Cristina D. Takacs (Biology)**—U-Rise at the University of New Mexico. Sponsor: National Institutes of Health

Government & Agency Funding

- **Esteban H. Muldavin (Biology, NMNHP)**—USFS Butterfly Surveys. Sponsor: Forest Service
- **Esteban H. Muldavin (Biology, NMNHP)**—BLM-New Mexico Biological Studies and Resource Data Services. Sponsor: U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management
- **Sally C. Seidel (Physics & Astronomy)**—Collider Physics Instrumentation. Sponsor: Department of Energy

State & Community Impact Research

- **Shirley V. Baros (EDAC)**—Cultural Treasures Project: An Initiative of Taos County. Sponsor: Alliance for California Traditional Arts
- **Kristine L. Denman (Institute for Social Research)**—CVRC FY26 Intimate Partner Violence Death Review Team. Sponsor: New Mexico Crime Victims Reparation Commission
- **Melinda K. Morgan (ISC)**—SRS RN: Transforming Rural-Urban Systems: Trajectories for Sustainability in the Intermountain West. Sponsor: National Science Foundation
- **Alexander W. Severson (Institute for Social Research)**—FY 2026 Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC) General Research Tasks. Sponsor: Bernalillo County

A&S at the Most Recent Lightning Lounge Talks

Two A&S faculty recently presented at the first [Lightning Lounge talks](#) of the academic year:

- **James F. Cavanaugh (Psychology)**—“What’s Dopamine Got to do With It?”
- **Melvatha Chee (Linguistics)**—“Eleven Hours Per Minute: Developing Indigenous Child Language Research”

Congratulations to the 2025–26 Research and Creative Works Leadership Awardees.

Research Events & Funding Opportunities

Research Administrators Appreciation & Networking

Attend for a gathering of research administrators and research development professionals from UNM’s Main and branch campuses. This in-person event will feature lunch and structured networking to get to know your research colleagues from across the University.

Date: Tuesday, September 25

Time: 12:00–2:00 PM

Location: Stamm Commons (Centennial Engineering)

[Register](#)

ADVANCE–FRDO Research Success Series: Cultivating Connections: Outreach, Engagement, & Fundraising for Local Change

How can you build partnerships beyond the university, reach local audiences, and raise funds for this work? We have suggestions!

Date: Wednesday, September 26

Time: 12:30–2:00 PM

Location: Zoom

[Register](#)

Research & Discovery Week

Showcase of UNM scholarship and creative activity through keynote lectures, symposia, workshops, performances, exhibitions, and two special open house events on November 14. Faculty are encouraged to register by October 1.

Date: November 6–14

[Register for Research & Discovery Week](#)

Wicazo Sa Review 40th Anniversary Symposium

Two-day symposium celebrating four decades of the interdisciplinary journal promoting tribal sovereignty. Features roundtables, paper presentations, and the Elizabeth Cook-Lynn Lecture Series. [View draft schedule.](#)

Date: November 6–7

Location: SUB

2025–26 Feminist Research Institute (FRI) Faculty and Graduate Student Seed Grants

Support for interdisciplinary projects on women, gender, and sexuality.

Deadline: November 15

[Details and application](#)

If you receive notification of a stop work order, termination, or reinstatement of a federal research grant, please:

- Notify the **Office of the Vice President for Research** AND
- Send the notification to awards@unm.edu and CC **Sharon Nepstad** (nepstad@unm.edu)

Student Success: Sushilla Knottenbelt



Supporting Student Success Through Grade Clarity

With your Fall classes in full swing, help your students stay informed and reduce end-of-semester surprises by clarifying grade estimates. We've seen several grievances in which students have made high-stakes decisions affecting financial aid based on a misleading Canvas grade estimate.

If you're using Canvas, you can [check gradebook accuracy quickly by using the 'Test Student' feature](#) to ensure total points for assignments and assignment groups are functioning as you intend. You can also learn more about how the 'total' column works by clicking [here](#).

The amazing Center for Teaching and Learning instructional designers are on stand-by to help you set up, check, or customize your gradebook (and answer any other Canvas questions) during any of [their open-lab drop-in sessions](#) throughout the semester.

If you don't plan to use Canvas to give automatic grade estimates, you can [turn off the total grade column](#).

Students can be supported through clear communication in the syllabus and at key times in the semester that you don't use Canvas for grade estimates. Providing an accurate mid-semester grade-check for all students through any means is very helpful for student success.

Aligning GenEd Assignments with UNM/NMHEAD Essential Skills & Rubrics

Hands-on workshop offered by the Office of Assessment and APR to design your own General Education (GenEd) assignments that align with UNM and New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) essential skills and rubrics.

Through guided activities and collaborative discussions, you will develop experience in designing assignments that effectively assess student learning outcomes in UNM/NMHED essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, quantitative reasoning, information literacy and personal and social responsibility.

Take away strategies, samples and rubrics to enhance your course design and promote student mastery of essential skills at UNM. Save the date for another session of this workshop on Tuesday, October 7th at 10 a.m.

Sign ups for all workshops are at the link below:

[Register for UNM/NMHED Hands-On Workshop](#)

CTL Learning Strategies Workshops

Faculty can request specific workshops or refer students to the CTL team directly. Many of the workshops have corresponding modules that faculty can embed directly into Canvas.

Upcoming Workshops

- Sept. 29 (10:00–11:00 AM) **Conversations on Disability and Academia**
- Register [here](#) or join [via Zoom](#) (no password required)

Listen to or read Wanda Díaz-Merced 's "How a Blind Astronomer Found a Way to Hear the Stars" before the session and prepare either your reactions to the piece or your own story inspired by it:

- [Listen](#)
- [Read](#) (UNM account required)

[Additional CTL Instructor Workshops](#)

A&S Center for Academic Success Workshops

Faculty and Advisor Collaboration for Student Success

This workshop focuses on strengthening partnerships between faculty and academic advisors to better support student success.

Topics include transfer equivalencies, course overrides, departmental honors, implications of grading practices for financial aid and degree progression (e.g. what a C-means, giving a W versus an F, etc.), and other key processes. Participants will explore effective communication strategies and share best practices for working together to help students thrive.

Date: Tuesday, October 14

Time: 1:15–3:00 PM

Location: Center for Academic Success Conference Room

A&S Undergraduate Degree Requirements

This session offers faculty and staff a concise overview of core curriculum, major/minor requirements, and key policies affecting degree progress. Learn best practices for guiding students and ensuring consistent understanding of undergraduate degree pathways.

Date: Thursday, November 20

Time: 10:00–11:45 AM

Location: Center for Academic Success Conference Room

Interested in Exploring How AI Might Support Your Teaching?

College of Libraries and Learning Services is hosting a 6-week virtual program for social science faculty (and interested graduate students) that focuses on thoughtful, collaborative engagement with AI tools. This cohort-based experience will meet over Zoom starting October 13.

All participants will receive a ChatGPT Plus subscription and work collaboratively in a supportive, cross-disciplinary environment. Please complete the short application form linked below. Participants will be selected with the goal of forming a diverse, engaged cohort.

Contact [David Gustavsen](#) and [Irina Meier](#) for more information.

Application deadline: September 29
Apply to the program [here](#).

New Student Parenting Space Opens With Celebration

UNM is celebrating the grand opening of a dedicated Parenting Student Space on Friday, September 26th from 6-8 PM in the SUB Atrium.

This new resource supports UNM student parents with essential amenities and community connections—please help spread the word to students who could benefit from this space.

RSVP

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