

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024 | Edition #125

## Message from the VP



Division staff take part in the 2024 fall All Staff Gathering on Friday, Sept. 27.

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you to those who were able to join us for the division All Staff Gathering last Friday. In addition to taking a geographical journey together, we reviewed key division updates, learned about how to become an influencer for the upcoming [UNM Big Give](#), and received a primer on free speech at UNM from Dean of Students Nasha Torrez. We also learned about open division service opportunities on our First Gen Focus Committee, Professional Development Committee, and new Staff Engagement and Recognition Committee. Links to express interest in serving on these critical committees are included here in the [CONNECT](#).

I'm pleased to share that we are also in the planning phases of implementing a division connection opportunity for swing shift team members who have not previously been able to join us on Friday mornings. More information to come on this initiative led by Executive Director for Student Resources, Dr. Jenna Crabb.

I do hope to see many of you this Friday at *Transforming UNM's HSI Identity and Praxis: Beyond Hispanic-Enrolling to Hispanic-Serving*, and the Lobo Oasis grand opening.

Next week, the skies around Albuquerque will fill with colorful hot air balloons and our streets and restaurants will fill with attendees. Be sure to show your Lobo pride and New Mexico hospitality as we welcome visitors from across the country and world to our Land of Enchantment.

Next week is also fall break for students and hearings for the Student Fee Review Board. This board and the associated hearings are critical services by student leaders to determine key strategic investments in student-serving units and ensure a robust and thriving student support infrastructure at UNM. Please join me in showing gratitude to students who have chosen to spend their break in service to this integral part of the fiscal planning process for the university.

CONNECT will take a one-week hiatus next week and return on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

With appreciation,

Eric

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### Student Engagement & Success Visioning Session



All DSA professional and student staff are encouraged to attend and share their ideas for developing a pathway to achieve success for strategic priority: Student Engagement & Success.

Space is limited and light refreshments will be served. Staff please be sure to [RSVP here](#) as soon as possible.

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### Career Services Graduate and Professional School Fair

The University of New Mexico's Office of Career Services presents the Graduate and Professional School on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union Building (SUB) Ballrooms. The Graduate and Professional School Fair provides UNM students the opportunity to meet with various university and college recruiters for graduate and professional school.



## Lobo Oasis Grand Opening



You're invited to the grand opening of the Lobo Oasis, UNM's brand-new relaxation, meditation, and spiritual wellness space located in the heart of our campus. Prepared in collaboration as one of our inaugural Lobo Well-Being initiatives, this exciting new addition—designed to provide our students with a peaceful retreat from the demands of college life—is the first of its kind at UNM. Hope to see you there!

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## Transforming UNM's HSI Identity and Praxis: Beyond Hispanic-Enrolling to Hispanic-Serving



You're invited to participate in the *Transforming UNM's HSI Identity and Praxis: Beyond Hispanic-Enrolling to Hispanic-Serving Symposium*, Friday, Oct. 4 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The objective of this symposium is to share promising practices for creating a Hispanic serving culture and practice at the University of New Mexico. Participants will be joined by renowned scholar, Dr. Gina Ann Garcia who will be engaging participants in a series of activities to reflect on how we can create Hispanic-Serving culture across campus. Lunch will be provided for preregistered participants. [Register here.](#)

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## DSA Committee Representation Opportunities

As I mentioned during last week's All Staff Gathering, there are exciting ways to get involved in our division. The Professional Development Committee and the Staff Engagement Committee are both recruiting new staff members.

## Professional Development Committee

The Professional Development committee, led by co-chairs, Pam Agoyo, executive director for student support, and Dr. Jenna Crabb, executive director for student resources, is seeking at least four new individuals to serve on the committee. The group needs representation from as many department and staff levels (new professional, intermediate, seasoned) as possible. Experience in the specific areas including logistics, event planning, administrative processes, communications/public relations, and project management, is preferred but not required.

The committee is charged with continuing to advance the division's broad 2023-2024 goals and priorities including, but not limited to: division onboarding, branch campus visits, and professional development opportunities for all Student Affairs staff.

Currently, the committee is working on a Branch Campus Initiative, conducting a staff orientation program with on-boarding tools, and sending out a committee representation survey.

### Current Committee Members:

- Co-Chairs: Pam Agoyo and Jenna Crabb
- Megan Chibanga, Executive Director, Residence Life and Student Housing
- Alonzo Maestas, Director, Veteran and Military Resource Center
- Dennis-Ray Armijo, Director, SUB
- Megann Roszak, Student Activities Advisor, Student Activities
- Leila Zazueta, Social Worker, Sr, SHAC
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Those interested in serving on the Professional Development Committee can [apply here](#) by Friday, Oct. 11.

## Staff Engagement and Recognition Committee

The Staff Engagement and Recognition Committee, co-chaired by Daven Quelle, business manager, Student Publications, and Dr. Stephanie McIver, executive director, Student Health and Counseling, is recruiting a diverse committee of 8-10 members from across all of Student Affairs departments representing multiple grades and positions, from new to long-serving employees at UNM, for a one-year term with an option for renewal.

The purpose of the committee is to collaborate, plan, and implement engagement activities and recognition programs throughout the year that foster an inspired, productive, collaborative, and creative staff. Improved engagement and recognition of all DSA staff across all departments and grades may then improve services for students and enhance the culture of the whole UNM community.

The committee will meet regularly to identify potential recognition/award opportunities and nominees/recipients and to develop and launch employee engagement initiatives.

Those interested in serving on the Staff Engagement and Retention Committee can [apply here](#) by Friday, Oct. 18.