

Wednesday, June 12 | Edition #114

Message from the VP



VP Scott with Matt and Kathy Mathai at the Louie Awards Ceremony.

Dear Student Affairs Colleagues,

It was a pleasure to visit with so many of you during our annual Louie Awards and End of Year Celebration last week at the Student Union. My sincere gratitude and congratulations to all nominees and awardees for their contributions so deserving of recognition.

It was also an honor to present the first ever Student Affairs Generosity Award to Kathy and Matthew Mathai who have given generously to establish the Mary Mathai Memorial Scholarship in honor of Matt's mother, Mary. This scholarship will forever support undergraduate Native American students pursuing a degree within the umbrella of STEM.

Another individual deeply deserving of recognition is our own Cheryl Wallace, retiring director of the Student Union Building. We will celebrate Cheryl at a retirement party next Monday, June 17 in the SUB Ballroom C. Through her service to UNM, Cheryl has made immense contributions, including serving as SUB director for the last five years. Notable during her tenure is a focus on capital improvement projects to enhance the SUB user experience while maintaining a balanced budget for this critical facility. While we will miss seeing Cheryl regularly, I've heard she intends to visit the SUB's annual pumpkin carving contest for many years to come.

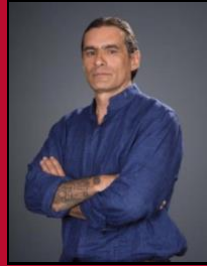
With appreciation,

Eric

2024 Louie Award Winners



Tunc-Ozcan



García



Mechler



Farmin



Veteran and Military Resource Center



Matt and Kathy Mathai

This year's [Louie Awards](#) ceremony was a real picnic! Each year, the Division celebrates staff, faculty, and student employees who go above and beyond in the categories below. This year's picnic-themed event was so much fun.

Please help us congratulate this year's winners:

UNM Faculty Leader of the Pack - Dr. Elif Tunc-Ozcan

Howling Best Employee - Jorge García

UNM Staff Leader of the Pack - Dr. Heather Mechler

Star Lobo Student Employee - Katie Farmin

Outstanding Pack - Veteran and Military Resource Center

Student Affairs Generosity Award - Matt and Kathy Mathai

Wallace Retiring After 29 Years at UNM



Long-time University of New Mexico employee, Cheryl Wallace, whose most recent role was director for the Student Union Building (SUB), is set to retire on June 30—you could say she’s going from directing a building to building a new direction in her life.

The oft-misattributed Abraham Lincoln quote, “In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years,” is one that Wallace keeps at top of mind. After 29 years at UNM, Wallace plans to use the “life in her years” to finish building her dream house in New Mexico’s East Mountains, and spend more time with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

During her time at UNM Wallace worked under nine university presidents, saw the course registration system go from paper to digital, and witnessed the modernization and transformation of the SUB—a place she considered her “campus home” for the last 15 years.

In 2009, Wallace began working in the Student Union Building and put her passion for working with students to work as the SUB’s operations manager. She would serve in that role for the next ten years until 2019 when long-time Associate Vice President for Student Life Dr. Walter Miller retired. That year, Wallace was named as the SUB’s new director.

In 2003, prior to Wallace’s employment with the SUB, and under Miller’s lead, the building went through a complete transformation. The complete renovation changed the dated cafeteria atmosphere with limited food choices, a bowling alley, bookstore, and inadequate space for students, and laid a solid foundation for Wallace to continue and build on.

“During my time at the SUB, I was able to complete a multi-stage roof replacement, added technology options to all meeting room spaces, and upgraded all areas with ADA accessibility,” she said.

“Cheryl made many improvements in the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management divisions at UNM as well as impactful changes for the better in the Student Union Building,” Miller said.

One of Wallace’s major goals was to completely rebrand the building for “Lobo Pride” by adding cherry, silver, and turquoise to the walls and creating a warm, welcoming space for UNM students.

Part of that rebranding began in May of last year, when Wallace was approached by one of her staff, Dennis-Ray Armijo, about adding UNM’s Land Acknowledgement Statement to the Student Union wall. She liked the idea and spearheaded a collaboration between the SUB, VPSA office, and American Indian Student Services to design, create, and implement a mural honoring the Indigenous Peoples’ Land and Territory Acknowledgement.

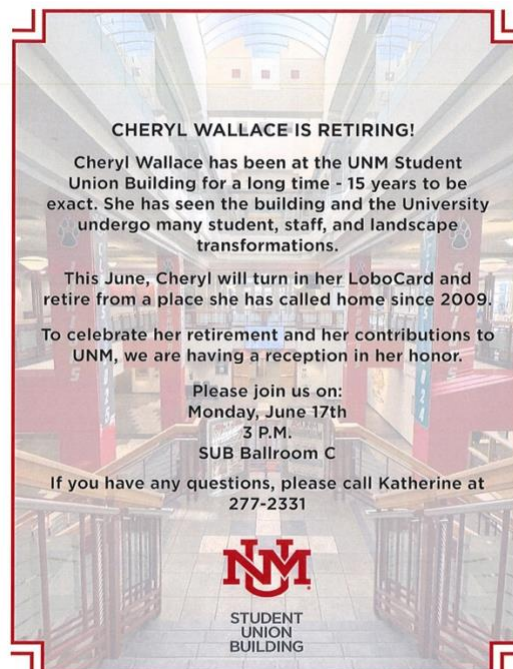
In August of 2023, Wallace coordinated a 20th anniversary celebration in honor of the 2003 SUB remodel—building on a statement of “when pigs fly” made by Miller about the likelihood of the renovation actually happening. During the ceremony, Wallace presented Miller and Torres with a plaque recognizing their leadership and dedication to the remodel project. “That was a fun event because it celebrated the past and the future of the building,” she said.

Wallace shared that while she has worked in a variety of areas throughout her career at UNM, none has been more rewarding than Student Affairs. “I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead the Student Union and create a welcoming space for our students,” she said.

[Read full story](#)

Wallace Retirement Celebration

**Monday, June 17
3 p.m.
UNM SUB Ballroom C**



Myers Retiring from Student Union Building



“The timing was right for both of us,” said Katherine Myers, administrative assistant at the Student Union Building, when referring to her June 30 retirement date, which happens to be the same day that long-time employee and SUB director, Cheryl Wallace is retiring—Wallace also happens to be Myers’ supervisor. The two will depart UNM on the same day after working together for the last six years.

Prior to her time working with The University of New Mexico, Myers worked for the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, where she coordinated tours among other things. Her well-rounded career included working at a middle school, the Girl Scouts, and in an emergency room at a Colorado hospital—her favorite job before coming to UNM.

In 2016, Myers UNM career started in the oldest building on campus and what she called “beautiful Hodgin Hall,” where she worked for two years as an administrative assistant for Alumni Relations. “I worked with a great group of women who worked together as an amazing team,” she said. “It was a fun place to work and a great experience.”

[Read the full story](#)

Professional Opportunities



Apply [here](#). Best consideration date is Thursday, June 13.



Apply [here](#). Best consideration date is Friday, June 14.

