UNM-Nursing Accreditation Site Visit

Dr. Camille Reese speaks with community members during a public forum as part of the nursing department accreditation visit.

The road to accreditation for the UNM-Gallup Nursing program began over 2 years ago and passed a major milestone with a visit from the accreditation site review team the last week of February. The site review team, consisting of 3 representatives from the Accrediting Commission for Education in Nursing, met with members of the administration, nursing faculty, and finally community representatives in an open public forum. Dr. Camille Reese, chairwoman of the review team, noted that the purpose of the site visit was to “verify, clarify and amplify” a self-study report which was submitted by the nursing program as one of the final steps in the accreditation process. Dr. Reese felt that the self-study was well-written and she expressed her desire to present the program in the best light possible.

The process began nearly two years ago with the preparation of a candidacy application packet. The packet was submitted in the summer of 2013, and candidacy was granted in September of 2013. The next step was the construction of the self-study report which was written collaboratively by the entire faculty and staff of the nursing department. The document was divided into sections with every person taking at least a part of each section. Assistant Professor Robert Galin assisted by compiling all of the sections into one document with a consistent tone. Sally Vink, adjunct faculty member, assisted with document compilation. The large accumulation of documentation supporting the self-study included syllabi, samples of student work, CV’s and transcripts. The arduous task of preparing the self-study was done by the team at the same time they were fulfilling their fulltime teaching and administrative duties.

The visiting team conducted an exit interview with the nursing faculty as the final step of their visit. They will now complete their report and allow the UNM-Gallup nursing program the chance to edit for any errors of fact. From there, the site review team’s recommendations will be submitted for a peer panel review in Atlanta, Georgia in June. Their board of commissioners will make a final determination as to accreditation status in July. For this initial accreditation process the only two options will be “accreditation for 5 years,” or “not accredited.”

The public forum was well-attended by community members, students, parents, UNM-G board members and local nurses, many of whom were alumni of the program. Feedback from the audience was very positive and indicated the strong local need for trained nurses, as well as the importance of having a quality local program available for students. Erik Nourse, nursing program alumni, said that he happened upon the UNM-G nursing program, but it was “the best decision he ever made.” He went on to say that the training he received at UNM-G prepared him for everything he has seen and he plans to continue on with his bachelor’s degree.

Nursing continued on page 3
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK

It might not feel like it, but spring will soon be here, and there is much to celebrate with the coming of birds and buds!! This year, we have begun an open and energized dialogue with our partners from the local school districts. This has included a recently completed “in service” day (3/2/14) held at UNM-G with faculty, administration, and staff from Gallup and Miyamura High Schools.

This was an opportunity for our student affairs staff, faculty and administrators to hear from our colleagues in the high school ranks, and to conceive how we can mutually work to improve the overall success of students in our area. Out of our meetings came the realization we have much to do. According to the Foote (2013) report, our area students are far behind their statewide peers in reading, math, and English. Another realization is that for us to succeed, we must truly work together as a team to bring our students along to have the success we would like to see. We can no longer wait for students to show up on our UNM-G campus and then “react” to their need for remediation. We must reach down into high school and even middle school populations and begin to inspire and connect. This means embracing the “K-14” continuum, and accepting that all area students are ours – even before they matriculate. Incipient efforts such as the “Gallup Reads” for primary schools, and middle school math and science camps can be useful “accelerators.”

One formula which we can see working is our TRIO program under the leadership of Jayme McMahon (see numbers in last newsletter). By intrusive advising, tutoring, and mentoring, TRIO has been a great success on our campus. An outgrowth, the Lobo Academy, was tested over the last two summers and is having an impact on preparing students before they get to our campus. The problem is, many students are lost to us even before they graduate, or even worse, do not graduate at all. New state testing requirements are putting a strain on our high school peers as they work to balance the formulaic testing requirements against best teaching and learning practices. The sad fact is that the majority of students do not continue their education- perhaps out of fear of failure, testing anxiety, lack of career visioning, economics, or other cultural factors.

By working with our K-14 partners, we can realize a regional impact that will elevate student success across the educational spectrum. As a follow-on to our first in-service meeting, we will be hosting another event in May, and will be proactively planning summer activities (Lobo Academy, summer vo-tech, math, and science camps) before that event. The focus of the next meeting will be:

1- Summer camps in the STEM-H and Vo-Tech fields (a CCTE primer camp)
2- Curriculum and student learning outcome alignment – UNM-G and local high schools
3- Elevating and accelerating best practices in developmental education, including planning and implementing an expanded Lobo Academy and planning for an Emporium math lab on the UNM-G campus.

These efforts can only improve our ongoing efforts to recruit, retain, and graduate students into successful educational and career paths. Let us be inspired by the hope and energy the birds and buds bring!!

Dr. Christopher Dyer

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Marji Campbell, Nursing Program Director, was optimistic about the results of the site visit and said “The visit went better than I dared to hope. The site visit experience depends so much on the site visitors. All three were fellow nurse educators and they were all collegial and professional. We owe a big thank-you to everyone on campus from the students to the top administrators for helping with the site visit.” Ms. Campbell went on to say that the site review team was especially impressed with the students, past and present, in the program. Their knowledge, dedication and praise for the program were noted by the site visit team members.

**Hero Twins Workshop**

The UNM-Gallup campus provided the backdrop for the Hero Twins Workshop which was held in the Calvin Hall Center on Saturday, February 22, 2014. Approximately 200 young Navajo men and boys were instructed in native traditions through a series of workshops presented by the Miss Navajo Council, Inc. Lectures and interactive workshops were presented in an atmosphere of respect for native cultures and positive life attitudes.

The Miss Navajo Council, Inc., a non-profit group, is comprised of former Miss Navajo Nation title holders who encourage local communities to become educated in their native traditions and preserve the Dine/Navajo language and culture. One of the event organizers was Dr. Jennifer Wheeler, assistant English professor at UNM-Gallup, who promotes educational endeavors both inside and outside the classroom. As a former Miss Navajo, Dr. Wheeler noted that presenters volunteered their time for the event which involved a series of workshops, demonstrations and lectures. Students, family members and other supporters were encouraged to attend to learn about their Navajo traditions and culture within a supportive environment.

Workshop Topics and presenters included:
- *Self- Identify of Warrior Twins* – Wilson Aronilth, Jr.
- *Importance of Navajo Clans & Kinship* – Joe Kee, Jr.
- *Traditional Fire-Making Methods* – Gino Antonio
- *Life Principles in Horsemanship* – Josephine Tracy & Jaime Begay
- *Respect within the Family & Home* – Valonia Hardy, RN & Dr. Michael Tutt, MD
- *My First Hunting Experience* – Waunekeanze Wheeler
- *Geological Features in and around the Navajo Nation* – Dr. Paula Watt

Dr. Lamont Yazzie was the keynote speaker for the morning session and spoke on “The Value of Navajo Heritage, Language & Culture in Education.” The afternoon session included a presentation by Professor Joe Kee, Jr. on the “Adaptation & Dubbing Process of the Navajo-Dubbed Star Wars Movie.” Professors Kee and Wheeler were instrumental in the translation and production of the *Navajo Star Wars* movie.

Life principles and Navajo traditions were woven throughout all of the presentations and demonstrations. All presenters emphasized the importance of learning, recognizing and appreciating the culture and history of the Navajo people. This is the fourth workshop conducted by the Miss Navajo Council, Inc. and the first one held on the UNM-Gallup campus.

*Left to right: Dr. Jennifer Wheeler, Dr. Paula Watt and Professor Joe Kee instruct participants in the Hero Twins Workshop. (Photos: John Van’t Land)*
UNM Celebrates 125th Birthday!

On February 28, 1889, the University of New Mexico was established by Territorial Act. To join in the 125th birthday festivities, UNM-G faculty and staff participated in a month-long trivia contest that culminated with a birthday party and plenty of “Lobo” birthday cake. Fun facts learned throughout the month included historical stories of the UNM “early days” when the University consisted of one building (Hodgin Hall); sports facts about the Lobos and the Rio Grande Rivalry (UNM has won the trophy for every year of the official competition); and a number of other informational tidbits that have accumulated throughout the past 125 years to make UNM the great institution it is today!

Kristi Wilson
Rethinking Sentimentality
March 10 - April 16, 2014
UNM-Gallup Ingham Chapman Gallery
Public Lecture: Wednesday 3/12/14, 6:45 p.m. Calvin Hall 248 B

Intramural Basketball

The spring season of Intramural Basketball is underway! The season will continue through the end of April and games will be played every weekend. Friday evening games will be played at 5:30 P.M., 6:30 P.M., and 7:30 P.M. Saturday afternoon games will be played at 4:00P.M., 5:00P.M., and 6:00P.M. All games will take place in the UNM-G gymnasium. Come out and support your favorite team(s)!

Professor Lanza Honored

Assistant Professor of English and Italian American poet Carmela Delia Lanza announces her most recent publication, So Rough a Messenger, an anthology of poems which, according to the news release from the Italy in New Mexico Newsletter, “conjures memory, experience and spirituality in a metaphysical dance of Italy and New Mexico.” Professor Lanza is a graduate of UNM and has been published in numerous anthologies and journals include Voices in Italian Americana. In his review of her work, Fred Gardaphe, Professor of Italian American Studies at City University of New York says “This urban emigrant to the land of deserts marks her time in poems that sing delightful dirges and lonesome lyrics showing us how we all fill our lives with what we’ve lost and found in worlds old and new. Lanza makes past present through lines of breath that take ours away.”
UNM-Gallup bids a warm welcome to Jeannie Baca who joined our campus on February 24th as the new Director of Student Affairs. Ms. Baca comes to UNM-G from Central New Mexico Community College in Albuquerque where she was the Associate Dean of the School of Applied Technologies. In her new position, Ms. Baca will oversee all functions of student services including enrollment, registration, advisement, financial aid and student life.

In an effort to become acquainted with the campus, Ms. Baca has introduced herself to her staff and all those she encounters on campus and has been asking lots of questions. “Marcus Largo and a couple of outgoing and friendly student ambassadors gave me a first class campus tour and shared their perspectives on student life,” noted Ms. Baca who has also made it a point to meet with each of her direct reports, the faculty division chairs, the Dean of Instruction and the local advisory board members. In her first staff meeting with Student Services staff, she shared background about herself and used it as an opportunity to highlight “bright spots,” teamwork and customer service.

In her new role, Ms. Baca has several main goals for UNM-Gallup. “My top priority is to work with staff and faculty to ensure that students and the UNM-G community receive exceptional and efficient service and to create a welcoming and supportive environment that fosters student engagement, personal growth and student success.” Secondly, Ms. Baca would like to enhance and build positive interdepartmental relationships through collaboration and open communication. She would also like to promote UNM-G to our community through active outreach efforts by providing information about the incredible programs we offer.

“Additionally, I look forward to working closely with staff to examine processes and share best practices as well as assess training and support needs to ensure we provide optimal student service. Much exciting work ahead! We will work hard and have fun!” adds Director Baca.

Ms. Baca would like potential UNM-Gallup students to know “UNM-Gallup is a great choice! We are here to help you achieve your educational and career goals. We want you to succeed and are here to lift you to new heights. We are here to serve you and provide you with an exceptional learning experience. Allow us to be your resource.”

When asked about challenges and opportunities for the campus as a whole, the answer was characteristically positive. “Staff, faculty, and students have been extremely welcoming and friendly and are sharing ideas on ways to improve departmental communication and collaboration. I am listening and will continue to seek collective input to ensure we provide exceptional customer service and information to support all aspects of student academic success, safely and student life.”

Ms. Baca’s office is in the Student Services Technology Center, Room 276.

Cool Things on Campus

• Call 505.863.7505 for the College Store
(Books and more!!)

• Hungry?
Have lunch at the Chili Factory Express,
Gurley Hall

• Go to www.gallup.unm.edu to Friend us on Facebook and keep up with our news
TRiO Day at the NM State Legislature
Contributed by Jayme McMahon, UNM-G TRiO Program Director

Our state association, TRiO New Mexico, organizes a TRiO Day event each year for all programs across the state to participate in. This year it was held on Friday February 14th in Santa Fe. Our group traveled to Santa Fe on Thursday February 13th, and the program was able to fund all travel expenses, including hotel accommodations, and registration fees for the event. The only cost students had was dinner on Thursday night; we all went as a group and had a fun time. Our association does a great job in creating activities for students, and they try and structure the event like a conference.

This year our activities began at the Institute of American Indian Art. When we arrived we met with several student ambassadors from IAIA; each student was assigned a group, and they provided campus tours and information. The ambassador assigned to our group was from Sheep Springs, NM and one of the other ambassadors was from Crystal. It was so good for our students to see students from this area flourishing at an institution like IAIA. After our tour all of the TRiO participants from across the state gathered for a welcome address from the President of IAIA; they also watched videos created by students about their educational journey. The student ambassadors from IAIA then held a student panel, and all of our participants were able to ask questions. We then split and our students gathered in groups and made flags that represented what TRiO has done for them; this was a very reflective process allowing students to think about where they would be without program support. Once the flags were made all of the students from across the state gathered in a circle outside and spread the flags. The flags were also held high when students visited the rotunda.

IAIA provided lunch and then we headed over to the rotunda. There we heard from state legislators, TRiO staff and alumni. The most powerful part of the day, however, came from the student testimonials. Observers were gathered all around the rotunda floor as students spoke about our state’s TRiO programs and the impact they have made. The theme of the day was “TRiO Works!” One of our participants shared her story and left a lasting impact on everyone. After the event at the rotunda we walked to the Museum of Contemporary Native Arts in downtown Santa Fe, which is also funded and run by IAIA. There were five separate exhibits for students to view, and they also received presentations from museum staff.

Our students loved the experience. This is the second time our program has been able to take students to TRiO Day in Santa Fe. We do plan on continuing taking students each year. Interested students had to complete an application to attend the event; it was a competitive application process with GPA and program participation requirements.