Miller Named Executive Director

Elizabeth Miller, Ed.D, has been named director of the University of New Mexico-Gallup branch campus. Her appointment was announced in May by UNM Provost Brian Foster.

Miller, one of four finalists for the position, served as interim executive director for UNM Gallup since January 2002. Miller joined the campus as faculty in the Business Technology Department in 1986. She was named chair of the department in 1987. In 1996, Miller became associate director of instruction, a position later reclassified to dean of instruction with rank of assistant professor.

As UNM Gallup interim director, Miller developed strategies to address a budget crisis and declining enrollment. She oversaw negotiation of a new UNM-G Gallup operating agreement with the main campus. Miller initiated a strategic planning/programmatic needs survey and facilities master plan project.

Active in the community, Miller has served as director of the Gallup McKinley Chamber of Commerce since 2001. She has been a member of the RMCHCS board of trustees since 1998.

Miller received an Ed.D. in education administration with an emphasis in educational leadership and organizational learning from UNM in 1996. Before coming to UNM Gallup, Miller taught at the community college and high school levels in Kansas and Colorado.

Faculty Receive Professor, Associate

The following UNM-G faculty have been awarded Full Professor status:


Jean Martinez-Welles, Health Careers, received a B.S. in Dental Auxiliary Teacher Education from the University of North Carolina, 1982; an M.S. in Health Education, UNM, 1990.

Receiving tenure and advancing to

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Diabetes is a terrible disease which affects at least one in every 16 people. It can be managed with proper meal planning, exercise, and possibly medicines. Diabetes is a highly controllable disease which requires a personal commitment to effective management.

Good diabetes care requires a team of health care providers, including doctors, diabetes educators, nurses, dietitians, dentists, and social workers. UNM-Gallup is addressing the need for diabetes educators by developing a Diabetes Prevention Specialist program. Our health education faculty have been working with the UNM Health Sciences Department to write the curriculum for this program, which is the first of its kind to be offered in a higher education institution in New Mexico. The program, which we plan to begin this fall, provides a career path toward a bachelor's degree in community health and options for graduate study.

The Zollinger Library will house a wide variety of information about diabetes, ranging from booklets and pamphlets to videos as well as access to the latest research databases. Our community education program will offer classes in “healthy lifestyle” which will provide tools to manage diabetes. We hope that this program and accompanying resources will be helpful to individuals and agencies dealing with this disease.

More information will be announced soon.

FACULTY EARN RANK, Continued from p. 1

Associate Professor are:

Connie Casebolt, Business Management & Technology, earned a B.S. in Business Administration, Colorado State University, 1971; and an M.Ed., Colorado State University, 1994.

Dr. Elizabeth Gilbert, Health Careers, earned a B.S. in Health & Physical Education, Texas A&M University; an M.Ed., Health Promotion & Education, Vanderbilt University; and an Ed.D., Higher Education Administration, Vanderbilt.


Dr. Harry Sheski, Health Careers, is also the Acting Assistant Dean of Instruction. He earned a B.S. in Medical Technology, University of Wisconsin, 1976; an M.A., Education, UNM, 1991; and an Ed.D, Education Administration, UNM, 1999.

Dr. Florentin Smarandache, Mathematics and Science, earned an M.A., Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Craiova, Romania; and a Ph.D., Mathematics, State University of Moldova.

Distinguished Alum: UNM Regent
Sandra Begay-Campbell Calls
UNM-G a Model for Branches

Sandra Begay-Campbell gets back home to Gallup as often as she can. A member of the University of New Mexico’s Board of Regents, this 1985 graduate of UNM-G’s pre-engineering program learned very early the importance of staying close to home.

“Just out of high school, I went to college in Michigan for the first semester, and it was a huge mistake,” recalls Begay-Campbell. “I had culture shock. There was no support system, no family support. I needed my family.”

So, she came home and enrolled at UNM-G. A smaller college, with a more “intimate” atmosphere and more attention from the faculty, proved just the ticket. After earning her AAS degree, Begay-Campbell went on to get her Bachelor’s from UNM-Albuquerque and her Master’s from Stanford.

“I really recommend the experience of a small college for people who want to transition in a more successful fashion,” Begay-Campbell said. “The cost is phenomenal, and you can keep your focus on academics while you grow up and mature.”

Today, Begay-Campbell is a model of success. An engineer at Sandia Labs for the past 12 years, her current project is to build a sustainable solar energy program in conjunction with the Tribal Utility Authority on the Navajo Nation (she is Dineh). The project is designed to find ways to help the largely rural Dineh, who for the most part live “off the grid”, meet their energy needs.

Prior to working at Sandia, she worked at Lawrence Livermore in California, at Los Alamos National Lab, and for the American Indian Science and Engineering Society in Boulder, a nonprofit she ran for three years.

As a Regent, she feels she has an important role as advocate of the branch campuses of the university system.

“I see Gallup as a model for the branch campuses. UNM-G serves a large American Indian population. It is in a position to serve the local community, but also is part of the flagship institution of this state.
Fall registration continues through August 22; classes start August 25.

Program Manager Joins Zuni Campus

Erin Clare has joined UNM-Gallup as Program Manager of the Zuni Campus.

Clare, who was previously employed at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz., also worked at The University of Texas in Austin, and Emory University in Atlanta.

She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southwest Texas State University, with a major in Political Science.

“My goal for the Zuni Campus is to provide as many good programs and services to the greatest number of students we can accommodate. Students first!”

Classes have been offered at the Zuni Campus since the spring of 2002.

Graduation 2003 Commencement ceremonies for UNM-Gallup were held May 15 at Gallup Senior High. More than 200 students participated in the ceremony. Among those on the platform: Joe Shirley, President of the Navajo Nation; Arlen Qwetski, Governor of Zuni Pueblo; F. Chris Garcia, president of UNM; Sandra Begay-Campbell, UNM Regent; Thomas Begay, Navajo Code Talker; and Brian Foster, UNM Program Manager Joins Zuni Campus

Watch for the Fall issue of UNMGVIEWS in September. Call 863-7565 to contribute news or feature ideas.