UNM President Visits Gallup Campus

UNM-Gallup hosted a visit from UNM President Dr. Robert Frank on Monday, September 30, in conjunction with a community welcome event for Executive Director Dr. Chris Dyer. Dr. Frank had high praise for Dr. Dyer and the work he has done during his short time at UNM-Gallup. “Dr. Dyer has a vitality, an energy and a positive influence that is already making a difference at UNM-Gallup,” Frank said. “He has really struck a chord with this community.”

During his trip to UNM-G, President Frank met with staff, faculty, students, and local lawmakers along with the advisory board and community members. “People were delighted to interact with him first hand. There were no significant challenges noted that we weren’t already aware of,” Dyer said. “The number one issue was to increase student success including enrollment, retention and graduation.”

In forums and meetings throughout the day, discussions focused on topics such as maintaining Internet connectivity, providing affordable day care and addressing the difficulty of traveling long distances to attend class. Dyer noted, “The need for student housing came up repeatedly, and a committee of community advisors has been formed to work on this with us. We will engage UNM’s main campus in all aspects of student housing and master planning.”

Along with campus and community members, a number of UNM alums turned out for the evening reception to officially welcome the new executive director. “It is remarkable how quickly Dr. Dyer got involved in this community and began addressing the issues that are of utmost importance to Gallup, such as workforce solutions and job training,” Frank said.

While in the area, President Frank also visited the nearby pueblo of Zuni, where the University is working to enhance educational opportunities from elementary school through college. Frank toured the elementary and high school at Zuni and spent time observing a class where students were learning their native language along with English skills. He also talked with a teacher’s aide who is attending classes at the Gallup campus to become a full time teacher.

(Contributions to this article were made by Dianne Anderson, UNM Director of Communications.)
Welcome to my second historic “informe” on UNM-Gallup. The last several months have been a flurry of positive outcomes and activity and there is much to share with you. Our September 30th visit from President Robert Frank was a great success, and showcased the new energy and spirit of our campus and community. We also completed our second leadership training exercise (September 17th), which was very productive, and included reports on a diversity of topics and outcomes with our “idea partners” (IPs) (paired leadership team members). For example, my IP partner (Ron Petranovich) and I have been working on campus beautification plans, infrastructure planning for new facilities, and design and placement of our new UNM-Gallup welcome sign. Our specific activities have included planning for reopening our child care center as a “Kids Count” regional facility, and requests to HED for funding a stand-alone Physical Plant and to finish/renovate the bottom floor of the library. As we progress with these plans and outcomes, other improvements under consideration include student housing, faculty housing, and an on-campus amphitheater to serve both community and campus events. Meanwhile we are also upgrading the gymnasium to include volleyball nets, new scoreboards, and community-based tournaments and athletic events.

To build on our servant leadership and “Ready Shoot Aim” approach, we are preparing for a campus retreat (November 14 – 15) that includes a broad spectrum of UNM-G participants, representatives, IT and marketing folks from central campus, as well as key community and Board of Advisor representatives. We will be drilling down on identified “big ticket” items at our retreat, such as marketing, student recruitment and retention, student success and advising, graduation, program development, workforce development, community outreach, student life, and other important topics. As part of our exercises at the retreat, we are launching our second in a series of book readings. The first book we read and drew “lessons learned” from was M. Fullan’s “Change Leader: Learning to do What Matters Most”. The second book in our series is Stephen M.R. Covey’s “The Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything.” From this we will begin to build a “culture of trust” on our campus, with the goal being a “high trust” campus that is efficient, transparent, and highly adaptable to the educational and development needs and aspirations of our students, community, and employee “family.”

Finally, we are going to expand our campus communication outreach beginning Nov 1st with a bi-weekly report that provides up to date news, event notices, and points of interest. This will come out of the ED’s office, but can include campus-wide information and updates. All faculty and staff are encouraged to submit information of interest, event notices, student and faculty kudos, and other communications relevant to our mission and vision. Finally, you are all very welcome to our December 12th “A New Mexico Holiday” (5 – 7 PM) on our campus and December 13th holiday reception at the EDs house (1502 Grandview) (5 – 7 PM). Thanks for all you do, and have a blessed and productive holiday season!

Dr. Christopher Dyer

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S DESK

CALENDAR

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Financial Literacy Academy

With support from the Wells Fargo Charitable Foundation and US Bank, the Adult Basic Education Center is offering a Financial Literacy Academy for students in the program. The Academy is broken down into five modules, each of which has a particular relevance to the students of the ABE program.

**Component 1: Understanding Predatory Business Practices**

Shawn Ashley will teach a course with the objective of training students to budget to satisfy long-term needs without feeling like they need to submit to local predatory business practices. Students will use basic math, reading and writing skills to help educate themselves in making informed decisions using real life scenarios. Shawn argues that poverty ravaged areas like Gallup tend to take advantage of people who lack education, confidence and awareness. Shawn will find resources that will educate and inform students how to live within their means while teaching strategies that support healthy and informed decision-making when dealing with predatory businesses within our own community.

**Component 2: What is Credit?**

Jovena Laate teaches at the UNM-Gallup campus in Zuni, New Mexico. Given the rural and demographically diverse nature of Gallup, many citizens live by means of self-employment within a stagnant economy. There is a minimal knowledge base of financial literacy and individuals have very little, if any, understanding of what credit really means, how it works, the concepts underlying it, and the vocabulary involved in establishing credit. Jovena will show her students how to obtain and keep credit, how to read a credit report and instruct them in knowing how vital it is for everyone to develop this knowledge base in order to become savvy consumers and be armed with the knowledge necessary to maintain personal finances.

**Component 3: Marketing for Self-Employed Artisans**

Jacinta Sice is an instructor at the Zuni site of the UNM-Gallup campus. Jovena has seen many of her ABE students and their families taken advantage of by “middlemen” as they try to make their living as self-employed artisans. Jovena will teach her students how to market their artwork considering components of raw materials, time and quality. Students will research ways to market their piece productions to direct buyers so that the artisans are not being cheated on the value of their work. By utilizing these different outlets, students will recognize how they can receive more profit if they do the selling of their own art work without the middle person.

**Component 4: Predatory Loan Awareness**

This course will be taught by Bryston Bowannie who has seen many ABE students in an endless cycle of debt as a result of predatory lending. The objective of Bryston’s class is to increase awareness of loan companies and how economically damaging they can be to our community. Bryston will instruct students on how to calculate what their interest payments will be based on the principle borrowed using the interest rate and time as variables. Students will be instructed in smarter budgeting practices as a means of avoiding the “quick fix” of a predatory loan that eventually will turn into a long-term, often inescapable, cycle of debt.

**Component 5: Income Tax Preparation**

Through a series of seminars taught by the ABE instructors and visiting guest lecturers, students will be instructed in the preparation of simple income tax returns. Students with simple, uncomplicated income tax returns will receive instruction on preparing their own returns.
Chili Factory Wins Award

Congratulations to Bernadette Arriola and her staff at the Chili Factory for walking away with several awards for her green chili at the 2nd Annual Chili Fest @ Rio West. Bernadette’s award-winning chili was given both the People’s Choice Best Green Chili Award and the Best in Judges Award. Sample the chili as well as a broad range of other menu options at the Chili Factory Express located in the Commons area of Gurley Hall.

Local Film Liaison

The film and television industry generates billions of dollars in revenue each year and competition is tough for on-location filming sites. The City of Gallup is very lucky to have Lisa Rodríguez as its sanctioned film liaison to the New Mexico Film Office. Lisa, part-time instructor at UNM-Gallup, has held this position since 2007, and recently became a member of the Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI). The AFCI has five commission locations in New Mexico and is responsible for attracting film and video productions to the state to accrue the benefits of hiring local crews and utilizing local services in the community location. This premiere film commission organization was first formed in the 1940’s to allow film companies the opportunity to work with a local representative to coordinate services for on-site productions. Today Lisa and other commission representatives provide services ranging from scouting locations to putting together packages to provide economic incentives for film companies. As the City’s film liaison, Lisa reaches out to the decision-makers to promote the Gallup area as a great spot for on-location filming. Lisa would like to continue fostering training at UNM-Gallup including more high-definition video training, and specialized training simulating real movie sets. Lisa, owner of Light Language Photography Studio, has been a part-time instructor at UNM-Gallup for 10 years. She has also been a UNM-G student, Physical Therapy Technician at RMCHCS and is a self-proclaimed fitness fanatic.

MCHS Assistant Principal Setting Education Example for Students

Connie Torres, Assistant Principal of the Middle College High School, is leading by example when it comes to achieving educational goals. Connie received her Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership in May of 2013 and is now in a cohort to get her Doctorate. Connie is also the Lead Teacher and the Bi-lingual Director at the MCHS where she “Loves working with kids and helping them get their education. I tell the kids ‘don’t listen to anyone who tells you that you can’t graduate!’”

Connie is the first in her family to go to college and serves as a role model not only for her students, but for her family as well. She still gets texts from past students thanking her for making them do their work. Good luck & Congratulations to Connie!
The Gallup DWI (Driving While Impaired) Education Program has been holding classes on the UNM-Gallup Campus since 1988. Under the direction of program owner Steve Peretti, and program facilitator Rebecca Johnson, the DWI Education Program functions as a court-ordered and state-mandated means of teaching offenders a different way to live. Rebecca, known by many on campus as R.J., is also the instructional assistant in the MVSO/SAND program at UNM-Gallup. Steve has been a part-time instructor at UNM-Gallup as well as an instructor in the Zuni Public School System.

The program uses a curriculum that teaches participants strategies and action plans that will help them make decisions that are healthier, safer and more productive. Coursework includes seminars on the effects of drugs and alcohol on the brain and the body, the causes and effects of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, what loss is, drinking patterns and behaviors, and how positive change can happen. Participants are encouraged to attend the required 3-session classes with a support partner who also participates in the individual and group portions of the program. One of the most important parts of the curriculum involves talking about alternatives to destructive behaviors and developing a plan to maintain change. Offenders are mandated to take the classes for three consecutive Saturdays. If they miss, or are late, for any one of the classes they are immediately dropped from the program and a bench warrant is issued for their arrest.

Administrative support for the Gallup DWI Education Program is provided by Louise Lopez and Denise Silva of the UNM-G Community Education Department. The organizers of the program are passionate about the work they do and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those who walk through the classroom doors each Saturday. Rebecca notes “I love teaching this program because I know what it is like to be low on hope. It is so important that people have hope and know ways to make changes to create a good quality of life. It’s a gift for me to teach here.”

Of highest importance to Rebecca is the feedback she gets from students either during the class, or sometimes years later when she runs into an old student who is winning the battle against addiction. She shared two testimonials from students who have completed the program.

“I’m proud to be your student. Today the big shiny light came on in my head. You have put light and hope back into my life...You have given me the strongest brightest sword to fight alcohol and I am so happy.”

“Mrs. Johnson: I would like to tell you that you have touched my life...”

Having the ability to touch lives has motivated Rebecca to work with Steve and the DWI Education Program for over 10 years and keeps her dedicated to remaining a changing force in so many lives. For more information on the program, call (505) 863-7765.

Cool Things on Campus
• Call 505.863.7505 for the College Store
• 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

From Left to right Rebecca Johnson, Louise Lopez and Denise Silva
As we near the “turkey holiday”, UNM-G, Zuni Campus staff, students, and faculty are starting work on fixing the oven bread houses. The staff is planning a Thanksgiving Turkey lunch for students and faculty before the holiday to tell them “Thank you”.

In 2010, Zuni High School students ranging from 9th grade to 11th grade helped build the outside ovens with our CCTE construction students. Working diligently in the mornings, students shaped mud and hauled buckets of water to restructure the ovens while their instructors Albert Chopito and Loren Leekela demonstrated and supervised the oven building. We extend our gratitude to these students for their hard work.

Since then, the ovens have deteriorated from the harshness of the weather, requiring a fresh new coat of mud on the outside and the inside floors. The Zuni Campus staff went to work on the ovens for two days to get them ready for the turkey luncheon.

This is how the oven bread houses looked after a fresh coat of mud. Afterwards, we built the fire to ensure the floor and the walls will retain heat for baking the turkey. The staff of UNM-G, Zuni Campus is looking forward to the Thanksgiving Turkey lunch for students and faculty next month.
**Why We Do What We Do**

Sometimes we often wonder in passing or in conflict, why do we do what we do as student affairs professionals. I would like to take some time to offer a friendly reminder, as I was reminded in the previous week, why we put ourselves through long hours and tough days. There is a pride in each of us about our institution; it may be our first alma mater, it may have been our second chance, or like so many who walk through our doors, it is a long term investment. Whatever our reasons may be, we should always hold our head high for UNM Gallup. Alongside this pride, there is a passion engrained in our service to our small yet bold college. We witness firsthand the graduation of students who placed their success in our capable hands and there are no words to describe the feeling of contentment, gratification, and of fulfillment (after all our students’ success is our own success). Every morning as we open our doors, walk through Gurley Commons, or down the corridors of Calvin Hall, we must reflect on the number of students who passed through this very campus. Did we do everything we could to make sure they were armed with the necessary skills to succeed here or anywhere for that matter, and what could we have done better? By evaluating this we can improve not only our service but our understanding of the institution. We have the capacity to change lives, the ability to invoke motivation, and the power to inspire our students and our communities to invest in the future. So I ask you to think of the endless possibilities and to remind us all that it is through education that we can truly unmask our deepest potential. We do what we do because in some way education has impacted us, in some small way UNM has become a part of us. And as Dr. Bernadette Montoya says “we do what we do because there is no equal to the sense of accomplishment you feel when one of your students crosses the finish line...” so take pride in your work and be aware of the life changing events that we all get to be a part of as student affairs professionals, because if you “do what you love, love what you do, you will never work another day in your life”. By creating this awareness of ourselves, of our students and of our colleagues, we can ensure the success of our students and ultimately the success of our wonderful institution. At the end of the day we are all Lobos at heart and we must always be conscientious of our pack. I wish you all a wonderful productive academic year and remember... to inspire someone means to empower them with the will to strive for success. So let’s inspire...let’s change lives in positive healthy manner... for the greater good of what we do. Thank you for all your hard work and as always GO LOBOS!

*Marcus Largo / UNM-G Staff Senate President.*

**Greetings and Salutations!**

Faculty Senate has begun the year with flying colors and an invigorating zeal. We have had excellent attendance at our monthly meetings and as such have been able to accomplish quite a bit. A few highlights thus far:

Faculty awards were given the first week of the semester to recognize outstanding faculty contributions. (See page 1 for listing awardees). Congratulations to all of the award recipients, keep up the great work!

Senate committees are in full swing. Focus for the fall semester has been on approving by laws for each committee so that the new constitution and by laws can be passed this fall.

Two campus committees have been revitalized. The first is the hospitality committee, which works to recognize important moments in the lives of our colleagues. The second is the Mini Grant committee, which will be awarding small grants to new and innovative ideas that will add to the campus community, environment and/or instruction.

Lastly, Faculty Senate has begun to network with the Staff Senate to bring the whole campus together as a community. Faculty Senate will be sponsoring a Social Hour on November 13th, 2013 from Noon-1:00 pm. This is an opportunity for faculty, staff and administrators to gather to meet, greet, and eat....we hope to see you there!

Many great ideas have been shared with the Operations Committee and Faculty Senate will be actively addressing each.

*Erica L McFadden / Faculty Senate President*
UNM Alumni Events on Campus

Sept 18th: Health Care Alumni Reception.
Oct 2nd: College Education Panel Discussion & Reception.
Oct 21st: Lisa Platero-Brown speaks to CCTE students.
UNM-G Students Work with Habitat for Humanity

Chris Chavez, Instructor in Construction Technology, has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to allow construction technology students the chance to practice what they are taught in a real learning lab. Students will be constructing several segments of the newest Habitat house being built on Gallup’s east side. Students pictured are shown doing a concrete pour on October 15, 2013 during an NCCER inspection on the Habitat House. The layout and framing class will next be attaching the structure. According to Division Chair Frank Loera, “This is a great way for students to practice what they are taught and a great way to take advantage of materials to practice while not being paid for by college dollars.”