



Research and Graduate School Digest

BE BOLD. Shape the Future.

NOVEMBER 2019

Research and Creativity Week, November 11-15

By Vice President for Research and Dean of
Graduate School, Luis Cifuentes

I ask you to participate in the upcoming Research and Creativity Week (RCW), a week-long celebration and acknowledgement of the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and staff, which takes place November 11-15 throughout our beautiful campus. The week's events will be varied and include keynote addresses, highlighted faculty talks, posters, media installations, performances and musical events, presentations of film, theatre, and the arts, professional development opportunities, and evening mixers at Pete's Patio.

Please join me in thanking the University Research Council's organizing committee, Drs. Stephen Pate, Laura Boucheron Spence, Tanner Schaub, Christopher Sroka, Paulo Oemig and Michaela Buenemann; Graduate Student Council President Sean Sellers and ASNMSU President Evan Conner; the staff of the Office of Vice President for Research and Graduate School, and all those across the campus who helped make this happen. I would be remiss if I did not also acknowledge RCW sponsors: ASNMSU, Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Engineering, Education, Business, Agricultural Consumer and Environmental Sciences, and Health and Social Services, the Graduate School, Chancellor's Office, President's Office, Provost's Office, Administration and Finance, Student Success and Enrollment Management, Office of the Vice President for Research, New Mexico Space Grant Consortium, Water Resources Research Institute, and Physical Science Laboratory.

I encourage you to take five minutes of your time to peruse through the greater than 60 events taking place during RCW by going to <https://rcw.nmsu.edu> and navigating through the **List of Events**. Pick one, or two or even five events that interest you and take the time out of your busy day to enjoy, support and celebrate your



To view the events
visit <https://rcw.nmsu.edu/events>.

colleagues, students, and co-workers. Most likely it will provide a lift for you and those presenting and it will certainly strengthen our research and creative communities.

Dr. Phillip De Leon Joins the Office of the Vice President for Research

Dr. Phillip De Leon has been appointed Associate Vice President for Research and joined the Office of the Vice President on October 1. In his new role he will help lead university research initiatives in Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, Energy and Water, and Quantum Computing and serve as faculty liaison to Sandia National Laboratories. De Leon earned his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and B.A. in Mathematics from the University of Texas at Austin and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder where he was an AT&T Bell Laboratories cooperative research doctoral fellow.

He joined the Klipsch School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 1996 where currently holds the Paul W. and Valerie Klipsch Distinguished Professorship. From 2016-2019, he served as Associate Dean of Research in the College of Engineering. His research interests are in signal processing and machine learning.



Dr. Phillip De Leon, Associate Vice President for Research

Meet Dr. Rachel Boren, Director of the SOAR Evaluation and Policy Center

By Hamid Mansouri Rad, RAS

Program evaluation is one of the important components of a project, especially applied research and/or education projects that are funded externally. Those on campus who are engaged in writing proposals know that drafting evaluation plans for projects could be daunting at times. An increasing number of agencies now require hiring external evaluators as part of their proposals, and we have those services available on campus for all of NMSU to utilize but not everyone knows where to find them. I thought it'd be a good idea to introduce everyone to the SOAR Evaluation and Policy Center in the College of Education. SOAR is an amazing resource on campus, which is why I thought we should get to know its Director, Dr. Boren, a little better and ask her to enlighten us about her office.

Please tell us about yourself and your background.

I earned my Ph.D. in Educational Research, Statistics, and Evaluation from the University of Virginia, where I was trained in program evaluation and research methods in education and the social sciences. I have worked in research and evaluation in colleges and universities across the country, most recently as an evaluator for the Provost's Office at the University of Texas at El Paso and the Director of Evaluation for a 70 million-dollar National Institutes of Health funded center based at the University of Washington.

Question: Tell us about the SOAR, how long it's been there, and the kind of services it provides.

SOAR has been in the College of Education since 2016. We provide different research and evaluation services for grants, internal program evaluation needs, and external groups. This includes writing the evaluation plan for grant applications and serving as the evaluator if funded, survey design, qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis, and report writing for project teams and funders. We can also evaluate programs or initiatives for Colleges, departments, or any group that needs these services for their own initiatives that are not necessarily grant funded. Individuals and organizations outside of NMSU are also welcome to use our services for their needs as well.



Dr. Rachel Boren, Director of the SOAR Evaluation and Policy Center

Question: What is the process for obtaining services from SOAR?

We have a form to request services in the “Contact Us” page of our website: <https://alliance.nmsu.edu/soar> or I can be emailed directly: rboren@nmsu.edu.

Question: Could SOAR serve as an external evaluator on NMSU faculty’s proposals?

We can serve as external evaluators on proposals as long as we are not included as key personnel. Some funders have specific guidelines that help us determine if we are external enough to the project, and if investigators have questions about if we can serve as the evaluator, they can contact the program officer at the agency. In general, as long as we make it clear that SOAR will be independent from the project implementation, we can be on the proposal.

Repositions in NSF's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate

National Science Foundation (NSF)’s Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences is repositioning some of its basic research programs with the input from many of its stakeholders to accomplish two strategic objectives: 1) increasing the public value of basic research in the social and behavioral sciences, and 2) making the value more apparent to a wide range of stakeholders. The repositions in the Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) Division are as follows:

- The Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research (RIDIR) program changes to: Human Networks and Data Science (HNDS) with two components:
 - Human Networks and Data Science – Infrastructure (HNDS-I)
 - Human Networks and Data Science – Core Research (HNDS-R)
- While maintaining its partnership with NEH’s Documenting Endangered Languages Program, the Linguistics program, changes to Dynamic Language Infrastructure (DLI)



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- The Science of Learning Program changes to Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence

Repositions in the Social and Economic Sciences Division are:

- The new Security and Preparedness program supporting scientific research advancing knowledge and addressing issues related to global and national security
- The new Accountable Institutions and Behavior program supporting scientific research that advances knowledge in issues related to attitudes, behavior, and institutions connected to decision making processes.
- The Law and Social Science program is changed to the Law and Science program that expands its support to include studies on relationship between law and all areas of science including biological, computer and information sciences, STEM education, engineering, geosciences, and mathematical and physical sciences
- The Science of Science and Innovation Policy program changes to Science of Science: Discovery, Communication, and Impact supporting basic research aiming to enhance the productivity of scientific workflows, the capacity to communicate the value of those efforts to society more accurately and effectively.
- The Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM program changes to Ethical and Responsible Research
- The Science, Technology and Society Program changes to Science and Technology Studies supporting research on understanding and improving the societal impacts of science.

For additional information visit <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19089/nsf19089.jsp>.

Speed Dating with Research and Graduate School Staff

Location: Corbett Center, Aggie Lounge

Date: Tuesday November 12

Time: 12:00 to 1:30pm

The NMSU community will have an opportunity to meet and speak with staff of the Office of Vice President for Research and Graduate School about proposal development and administration, research compliance (IRB, IACUC, Institutional Biosafety Committee, Responsible Conduct of Research), navigating graduate school, SLATE, electronic thesis and dissertations, etc. The staff will be organized by subject matter at six tables and faculty, staff and students who document attending all tables will be eligible for prizes. Faculty, staff, and students who meet with presenters at all tables will be randomly selected and will receive prizes. Three such students will receive \$50 Visa gift cards. Prizes for faculty and staff will be announced at a later time. Pizza and drinks will be provided to all attendees.



Controlled Unclassified Information

Some research grants and contracts at NMSU contain regulated data categorized as Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI), International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR) or Export Administration Regulations (EAR). These types of data require enhanced security as part of NMSU's compliance requirements. To learn how NMSU is helping you address these requirements visit <http://cui.nmsu.edu/about>.



NMSU Library Request It Services for Graduate Students and Graduate Faculty

NMSU's Interlibrary Loan's Request It! is available to NMSU faculty, staff, and students allowing access to scholarly information available at NMSU and those owned by other libraries within the state, the U.S. or globally. The E-resources requested and found will be electronically sent to NMSU users sometimes within hours of being requested. When print resources are requested and found users will be notified when the items(s) requested are ready for pick up at NMSU Zuhl Library. Delivery Services are available for PhD



Candidates, Distance Education Students and NMSU Main Campus Faculty. To learn more about NMSU's library's Request It visit <http://lib.nmsu.edu/services/ids.html>.

New Secure and Free Online Data Collection Platform Available for the NMSU Community!

Students, faculty, and staff can now access REDCap (Research Electronic Data Capture), a free online platform that offers a secure and easy way to create and collect surveys or other assessment data you need. REDCap was created by the National Institutes of Health and is used by over 3,000 institutions across the country. REDCap benefits include:

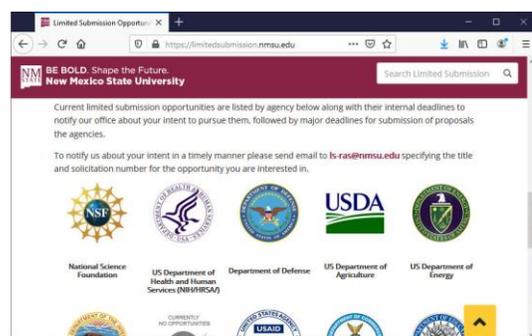
- Flexible survey design and question options
- Customizable access for each survey for more security
- Options for sending the survey to participants
- Data exports into Excel, SPSS, and other tools

To obtain access to REDCap, please complete the REDCap Sign up Form on the NMSU REDCap page: redcap.nmsu.edu (red link near the top of the page). You will then be contacted within a few days when you can log into REDCap. For questions, email the REDCap team: redcap-team@nmsu.edu.



Limited Submission Funding Opportunities

The Office of Research Administration Services lists limited submission funding opportunities at <https://limitedsubmission.nmsu.edu>. We encourage NMSU faculty and staff to periodically visit the site and if they are interested in any of the opportunities to please inform us by sending email to ls-ras@nmsu.edu. As a reminder, the site is only accessible on campus. Accessing the site using off-campus computers require first downloading and logging in through NMSU's VPN at <https://vpn.nmsu.edu>.



GRADUATE SCHOOL

NMSU Team Attends SACNAS 2019

By Dr. Luis Vazquez

Several of us from NMSU just attended the **Advancing Chicanos/Hispanic and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) Conference**. There were over 4,500 in attendance. Students, faculty and administrators came from all over the United States. It was an exciting time to meet listen and talk to students about their aspirations and dreams to achieve Master and Doctoral degrees in the STEM areas. NMSU had three booths at the conference representing the Graduate School, Colleges of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and Engineering; Arts and Sciences, and the RISE program. We all spoke to many students from all walks of life and experiences. I personally had the opportunity to speak to students from Puerto Rico and their experiences of surviving the hurricane. I had the privilege to listen to several stories of survival, resiliency and a strong collective commitment of caring for each other.

Some of the universities have yet to have any electricity, so the students attend classes until about 6 pm when daylight begins to lessen. Classes end at this time; however, the students continue to persist in chasing their dreams of going to graduate school. I spoke to several students from Texas, California, Colorado and Arizona who were first generation college students and came from very challenging backgrounds, yet were very motivated and inspired to reach their goals of going to graduate school. Many shared stories of their parents not finishing high school or ever attending college for those who did graduate from high school. They spoke of how their grandparents and parents were so proud of them and hoped that they would be the first ones to graduate from college and help create the pathway for their siblings to go to college. Of course, many shared their concerns of financing graduate school, feeling a sense of belonging at the university and access to a pathway of achieving their dreams. They also asked if they would be understood from their cultural perspectives and the diversity of challenges that they had experienced in their lives up to this point. I couldn't help but think of the many students



NMSU team left to right: Mary Jo Ruthven (NMSU MARC Program Coordinator), Michael Johnson (Professor of Chemistry), Elena Loest (NMSU PACR Program Coordinator), Graciela Unguez, (NMSU PACR Program Director) , Clint Loest (Professor of Animal Science), Michelle Nishiguchi (Head of the Department Biology), and Luis Vazquez (Associate VP for Research and Graduate School)

that we have at NMSU that have shared many of these similar stories and I watched cross the stage at graduation at all levels, graduate and undergraduate. I assured them that they could find a home at NMSU and that our values included a commitment to diversity, access, ethics, creating an environment for lifelong learning and a strong commitment to being engaged with the community, along with the affordability of a good education.

Many of the students were excited of the possibilities at NMSU and the goodness of fit with their cultures of origin. I also shared how many of our students at NMSU arrive from similar life challenges and succeed in making great contributions to the world around them. NMSU can be the university of choice for graduate education contributing to the dreams and aspirations of students in spite of their life challenges still succeed in wanting to make the world a better place for all of us.

Graduate School Café on November 12

Come and join the Graduate School on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM in the Educational Services building for the Inaugural Graduate School Café. Drop in to enjoy a hot, sit down breakfast while making connections with other students, staff, and faculty. Each of us has a unique story and we want you to share yours. We want you to tell us about why you chose NMSU, your major, and how you got here.

We are excited to learn about how much NMSU has grown since it first opened in 1888 and the positive impact the institution has had on students' lives since we opened our doors. Our goal for the Inaugural Graduate School Cafe is an opportunity to indulge on the positive impact of education, research, and creativity!

