



Research and Graduate School Digest

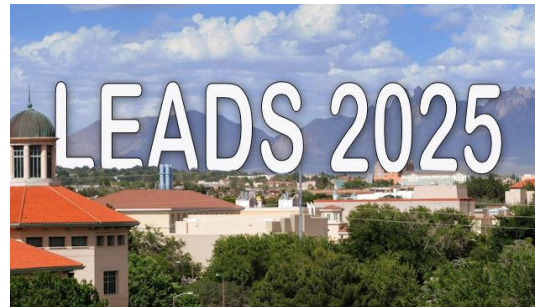
BE BOLD. Shape the Future.

OCTOBER 2019

Elevating Research and Creativity

The Chancellor, President and Provost of NMSU have convened four teams that will champion LEADS 2025 strategic goals by:

1. Identifying actions and prioritizing them by impact or resource needs;
2. Facilitating accomplishment of those actions;
3. Identifying champions for objectives and actions;
4. Identifying opportunities for collaboration, especially where such collaboration will increase synergy within the goals;
5. Reaching out to units around campus to understand how those units are making progress toward goals and encourage those efforts; and
6. Communicating.



Goal 2, Elevate Research and Creativity, team members include:

- Luis Cifuentes, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School
- Kathy Hansen, Director of the Arrowhead Center
- Ken Van Winkle, President of Alamogordo Community College
- Laura Boucheron, Associate Professor in the Klipsch School of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Jim Murphy, Associate Dean for Research in the College of Arts & Sciences
- Becky Corran, Chair of the Faculty Senate
- Lakshmi Reddi, Dean of the College of Engineering
- Jim Chavez, Director of the Physical Science Laboratory
- Rolston St. Hilaire, Academic Department Head of Plant and Environmental Sciences
- Miriam Chaiken, Dean of the Honors College

- Sean Sellers, President of the Graduate Student Council
- Jesus Sambrano, Jr., Post-Doctoral Fellow in Chemical & Materials Engineering

I have been asked to lead the Goal 2 team, which will meet at least monthly, with the support of Kathy Hansen.

I encourage you to visit <https://nmsu.edu/LEADS/goals.html> and get acquainted with the four objectives and 25 actions of Goal 2. It is incumbent on all of us to understand, prioritize and measure these objectives and actions in the context of what it will take to achieve the vision of reaching highest Carnegie research status (R1). Specifically, to reach R1 status, we will have to:

- Grow STEM expenditures to \$125 M per year;
- Grow non-STEM expenditures to \$4.5 M per year;
- Double the number of doctoral students in existing and new humanities and social sciences programs;
- Increase post-doctoral researchers and research staff with doctorates by 10 per year; and
- Be a comprehensive, academically excellent institution.

As a starting point, each Goal 2 team member has been asked to pick two Goal 2 actions. In turn, the team member will advocate for their chosen actions by answering three questions:

1. How will this action contribute to achieving the R1 ranking?
2. What resources will be required to perform his action?
3. How will progress be measured?

The aim of this process will be to help the Chancellor, President and Provost prioritize Goal 2 actions, and, if needed, modify, eliminate or add actions.

Meet Dr. Merranda Romero Marin, NMSU's New IRB Chair

Research involving human subjects requires necessary review for compliance with federal regulations. At NMSU, the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance (RIC) coordinates the review of such applications which is done by NMSU's Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB consists of highly qualified faculty members from varying disciplines as well as members from the community not affiliated with NMSU who participate in the reviews and advise the Board on specialty related matters such as those involving medical aspects and those involving issues related to death and dying.

The IRB activities are guided by a Chair who serves for three years and can elect to serve an additional three following their first term. This April ended Professor of Plant and Environmental Sciences Rolston St. Hilaire's term who chaired the IRB since 2015 and was instrumental in providing mentorship and guidance in this role. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce NMSU's new IRB Chair, Dr. Merranda Romero Marin, Associate Professor of Family and Child Science in the Department of Family and Consumer Science in the College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences.

Question: Please tell us about your academic background. How long have you been at NMSU?

I am a first-generation college student who was born and raised in Clovis, NM, hence I am a native New Mexican. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Family and Child Science at Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU). Upon completion of my Bachelor's degree, I discovered an outstanding program in Marriage and Family Therapy here at NMSU. I completed that degree in 1999 and began providing therapy at a local mental health community center. From there, I moved into the public school system and worked as an elementary school counselor. After working in the community for a few years, I ended up returning to NMSU and pursuing a doctoral degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology. Upon graduating with my doctorate, I went to work for the Department of Veteran's affairs in El Paso, TX where I oversaw the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinical team and provided evidence-based treatments including Cognitive Processing Therapy and Prolonged Exposure Therapy to



**Dr. Merranda Romero Marin,
Associate Professor of Family and
Consumer Sciences and NMSU's IRB
Chair. Photo by Hamid M. Rad,
Research Administration Services**

veterans diagnosed with PTSD. In spite of the great work that I loved, there was a longing to share my experiences through teaching and research and I left the clinical world to pursue a career in academia.

I have been with NMSU since 2012 where I started as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2016. My time at NMSU has allowed me to nurture my passion for teaching as well as pursue important research relevant to the citizens of New Mexico, which is an essential component to our land-grant mission.

Question: What is your research background and how does it relate to IRB activities?

I'm a licensed Counseling Psychologist and licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and research integrity and ethics have been instrumental throughout not only my work in counseling couples, children, families, and individuals but also in the research that I have conducted. I have a special research interest in fostering resilience and strength in vulnerable populations.

Question: What are your plans for NMSU's IRB?

The current era at NMSU is presenting a unique opportunity to enhance and grow the IRB as we move toward obtaining R1 designation. As many of you know, the Carnegie Classification has been the leading framework for recognizing and describing institutional diversity in U.S. higher education for the past four and a half decades. There are currently 131 institutions in the US classified as R1 institutions. Within our southwest region, there are 13 institutions with the designation which include the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and the University of New Mexico (UNM). As NMSU moves toward this goal, bold new research will enhance NMSU and enrich the lives of New Mexicans, keeping aligned with our land-grant mission.

This pursuit will also bring changes to the IRB process. It is imperative that we have a refined process wherein researchers submit IRB protocols of a caliber in which they can quickly be reviewed and processed. Hence the IRB is developing guidelines for all IRB submissions and will automatically return a protocol if it is missing essential information including such items as sign-off of all team members/department heads and missing CITI training. The overall goal of these stricter guidelines and

refined processes is to align the IRB with the strategic LEADS 2025 goal number 2: *Elevate Research and Creative Activity*.

As the IRB moves in this direction, we will continue to disseminate information related to the changes so that our campus stays well informed. Our ultimate goal is an IRB process that is pleasant, consistent, and efficient.

The Office of Research Integrity and Compliance and IRB are at your service. NMSU faculty and researchers can contact us by phone at 575-646-7177 or email at ovpr@nmsu.edu.

Submit Abstracts for the Research and Creativity Week (Deadline Extended to October 7)

To celebrate all scholarly and creative activities at NMSU, the University Research Council is organizing a five-day series of activities at a variety of campus locations on November 11-15. Faculty, staff and students (undergrad and graduate) are invited to participate. This will not be the usual series of lectures and posters that you might expect at a conference. We are looking for all manner of presentations: short performances, multimedia installations, and, yes, talks and posters too. Whatever you do in the way of scholarly and creative activity, we want to highlight it

In addition to your participation, we also are planning a range of other events:

- Plenary talks by featured outside speakers
- Physical Sciences Laboratory Open House
- NEH workshops
- Evening mixer at Pete's Patio with open bar and live jazz
- Presentations by recent Regents Professor awardees
- Presentations by recent URC Awards recipients
- Career development discussion for students and more

Please be a part of this celebration. Submit an abstract for your presentation, whatever it may be, using this form at <https://forms.gle/q4oDXrrSHST7yDxg7>. For more information contact the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate School at 575-646-2481.



Submit your abstract [here](https://forms.gle/q4oDXrrSHST7yDxg7) by October 7

Health Disparities Proposal Writing Workshop

Mountain West Clinical and Translational Research Infrastructure Network (CTR-IN) will be holding a workshop on writing clinical translational research proposals focused on "health disparities" on November 1, 2019 in Las Vegas, NV (Download [flyer](#)).

To be invited to this workshop, applicants must submit their applications online at https://unlv.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bDibftLjWnxvXjn by October 4.

Please note that Mountain West CTR-IN will cover the travel and lodging costs for the invited applicants.



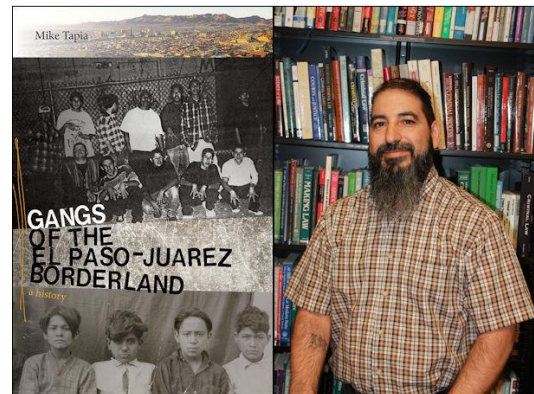
Book: Gangs of El Paso-Juárez Borderland

September 16 was International Gang Awareness Day which is meant to increase awareness about gang activities. While gangs are involved in various criminal acts from robbery to drug and human trafficking, they are secretive, dynamic groups, making them difficult to study and understand the true extent of their criminogenic potential. Because of the violence often associated with gang activities, gangs are considered a significant threat in many large cities. Historically, El Paso, Texas is one of the more gang-stricken cities of the Southwestern region, many with growing ties to Mexican drug cartels in Ciudad Juárez. This makes the upcoming book, *Gangs of the El Paso-Juárez Borderland* by NMSU's Criminal Justice Associate Professor Mike Tapia, particularly timely.

This book explores the history of gangs in the west Texas and southern New Mexico region, tracing major developments that have led to formation of these gangs since the early 1920s. "I present the role of history and geography on criminal structure formation in the binational urban setting of the region and its unique context for criminogenic processes," says Tapia.

The book is available for pre-order through the University of New Mexico Press at <https://unmpress.com/books/gangs-el-paso-juarez-borderland/9780826361097>.

Dr. Tapia will give a talk on his forthcoming book at



NMSU Associate Professor of Criminal Justice Mike Tapia. Photo by Hamid M. Rad/RAS

the Doña Ana Community College's East Mesa Campus Library as part of the 2019 Hispanic Heritage Month Speaker Series on Tuesday October 15, 2019 in room 203 F & G (DAAR Bldg. 2nd floor)

For more information, please contact Dr. Tapia at mtapia@nmsu.edu.

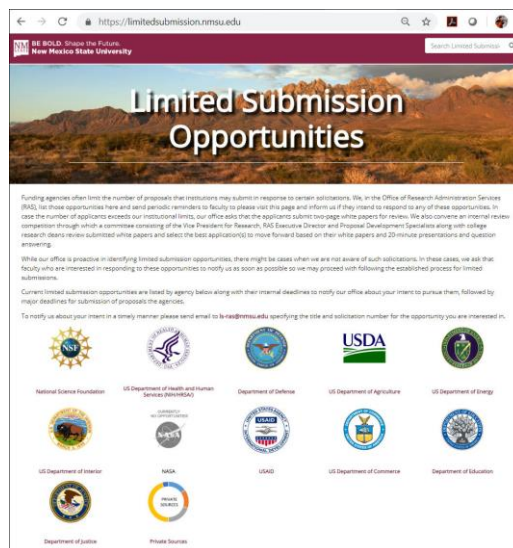
Save the Date: Principal Investigator Training – November 7, 2019

Research Administration Services will be offering its biannual Principal Investigator Training. The training is intended to provide a high-level overview to NMSU researchers and staff involved with proposal preparation and submission, as well as award negotiation/acceptance of externally-sponsored grants and contracts. The Training will be held on **November 7th at 1:30pm** in Anderson Hall. Registration details will be released later this month.



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

One of the questions I am often asked is about individual development plans or IDPs. An IDP can help our graduate students and each other to be better advisors, mentors and support guiding our students through the journey of their graduate experience. It also serves as a tool for all of us for collaboration, negotiation, facilitation in a shared experience of creating our own mini-strategic plan that includes our own vision, mission, objectives, goals and milestones leading to a successful graduation and career. Having a map to follow in our experiences helps all of us (faculty/students) have a shared experience of a collective responsibility and accountability in our relationships to each other. The beauty in developing an IDP is not just the outcome, but the shared experience that the process provides that allows the faculty to model a relationship of caring and guidance for their mentee. It also allows for the human experience of sharing in times of success and in times of challenges.

The IDP helps with:

- Developing strategies for making the transition to graduate school
- Understanding program of study in relation to degree requirements
- How the student can chart their own progress
- Understanding the rationale for goal setting for future careers
- How to prioritize requirements
- Develop a strategic task performance plan
- Understanding the expectations of mentoring
- Understanding social capital and networking
- Learning about the research process the expectations required for the student

Above all, the IDP is a tool to facilitate a process of success for graduate students and faculty alike in a journey leading to time to completion, careers to be explored, requirements to meet and memories to be made of a great relationship between a successful relationship between faculty and students. Let's make this semester a



Luis Vazquez, Associate Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies

great one for our graduate students, since they chose New Mexico State University as the University of Choice for Graduate Education.

New Graduate Admission Application System Update

As you may have heard, the new graduate admission application system is live. The Hobsons contract ended on September 30th, 2019. Thanks to the departments that have worked to make decisions on the completed applications in Hobsons. For prospective students who did not complete their admissions applications and have no application information in Banner, the Graduate School will work with them to encourage them to apply using our new application system.

The Graduate School will continue to work with departments on the submitted applications and processing from Hobsons. As Graduate School works to review the new applications that are in our new system, we will be working to contact departments for a referral.

Please stay tuned for upcoming training announcements on the new admission's system.



Graduate Deadlines

If you have a graduate student who is planning on Fall 2019, please see the deadlines at: https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/graduate_calendar.

Date	Action Item
August 30	File your Application for Degree / Certificate at my.nmsu.edu <small>* Complete the Application for Degree for the current term. If an application for a previous semester was submitted, but the degree was not awarded, a new application is required.</small>
October 1	Deadline to file your Application for Degree / Certificate via my.nmsu.edu (with a late fee). <small>Complete the Application for Degree for the current term. If an application for a previous semester was submitted, but the degree was not awarded, a new application is required.</small>
October 4	Deadline to submit dissertation titles to the Graduate School <small>*This is for doctoral degrees only.</small>
October 25	Deadline to turn in the Final Exam Form for thesis, dissertation or Professional Doctorate exams.

Upcoming Events

- OCT 1: Deadline to file your Application
- OCT 3: 8:00 am Homecoming
- OCT 4: Deadline to Submit dissertation
- OCT 15: Semester Classes Begin
- OCT 16: Last day to add new semester cl
- OCT 18: Last Day to Drop a Cl

Graduate Faculty Nominations

The Graduate School is requesting nominations for graduate faculty whose status has expired, will expire by May 2020, or who will be new appointments. The deadline to submit nominations is October 18, 2019.

To check on status expiration dates: <https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/graduate-faculty>.

To review the nomination process and complete the nomination

form: <https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/obtaining-graduate-faculty-status>.

Note: the process for nomination and submitting nominations is new so please review before submission.

