

September 13, 2021

Welcome to the UNM Department of Economics. I've had the opportunity to call this department, UNM, and New Mexico home for over 20 years. As we start the 2021 fall semester, I've been reflecting on all of the changes and events I've seen – and it's made me realize the resilience of people and of this place. The pandemic upended everything almost two years ago, and yet, we've moved forward. Faculty pivoted to online classes and not only made the best of it, but many excelled in what they did. Students worked with faculty through the transition and made heroic efforts to learn and adjust. And the staff supported us all and kept the department functioning and focused. And we all became experts (somewhat) in ZOOM. But, I'd expect nothing less, because this is the spirit of UNM and the Department of Economics.

I think about the students and faculty I've had the opportunity to get to know during my time at UNM and the things they've accomplished. The student who went on to serve their country; the student who went back to their home country to work in the government, even though it makes completing the degree more difficult; the one who chose to go into the foreign service; the one who grew up in NM and became a successful business person, but never forgot where they came from and always seemed humbled by their success; or the one who spent their life photographing the world – but was also one of the first to go NYC after 9/11 to help. The faculty who've made a difference in these and so many other lives – and continue to do so every day – are the foundation of this department. While economics is about markets, prices, and outcomes, it is also about choices made by individuals and about the impacts. I am so proud of the choices made by our students, faculty and staff.

Do well, but do good is more than a catch phrase for the UNM Economics Department. It is what our faculty, staff, and students have done and continue to do every single day. As we move further into our "more normal" return to campus, I'm excited to see where it leads us. How will the research done by our faculty impact the state and the world? Which new economics major will be the one who chooses a path we would never have expected? Which graduate student will be the one to inspire a new generation of students? I can't wait to see these adventures. I hope you will explore our web pages to see who we are and what we do. And, just maybe, join us for the journey.

Best wishes,



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