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NMSU UPDATE



NMSU PHOTO



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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

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Remembering the past and looking forward to the future of NMSU

A lot has changed at New Mexico State University since I graduated from the Las Cruces campus in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications.

The dormitory I lived in my freshman year – Monagle Hall – has been torn down and replaced with Juniper Hall, the three-story residence hall which opened to students in August.

There is also a new art department building – Devasthali Hall – that has taken the place of the former D.W. Williams Hall, in which I had an evening drawing class my sophomore year. And let's not forget Pete's Patio, the new grill and pub restaurant that has added life to the once scarcely used outdoor courtyard of Corbett Center Student Union.

Along with these additions, there are still



Alexia Severson
Special Sections
Editor

more projects in the works, including the construction of three agriculture buildings on campus and an ongoing effort to boost enrollment and retain students.

As an alumna, it's exciting to see these changes being made to enhance education and student life on campus.

My experience at NMSU was one I will never forget, and my hope is that these improvements will make NMSU a place students can look back on fondly, while taking their education with them into the future.

Flip through these pages for an "NMSU Update" on all the new things happening at the university.

Alexia Severson
Special Sections Editor

NMSU chancellor: The objectives are clear

By **MIKE COOK**
Las Cruces Bulletin

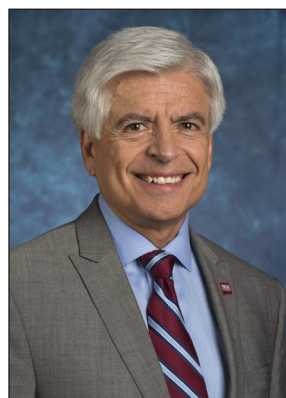
Alamogordo High School graduate Dan Arvizu attended New Mexico State University on a music scholarship in the 1970s, and after 14 months as chancellor, he said he feels like an orchestra conductor who finally has all his instruments in place.

"The objectives are very clear," Arvizu said, as NMSU focuses on student success, research, outreach and serving New Mexico as a robust university.

"Those are the things we care about most," said Arvizu, who became NMSU's second chancellor and 28th chief executive June 1, 2018.

Student success, the university's top priority, he said, has a lot to do with money, including boosting enrollment and improving retention to bring in more state dollars, and getting students out the door as quickly as possible to save them out-of-pocket expenses.

In terms of "sticker price," the chancellor said NMSU offers "phenomenal value." With a state lottery or other scholarship and financial aid that is poten-



NMSU PHOTO

NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu

tially greater than 100 percent of tuition and fees, a student could earn a BA from NMSU for as little as \$20,000, he said.

From enrollment to graduation, the state's land grant university must look at the success of each student holistically, the chancellor said. "How quickly can they actually be successful?" he said. And how can NMSU help them "find a place to have meaningful work" and meet the needs of employers across the state in the process?

NMSU should be more nurturing, Arvizu said, so that no student feels isolated. It should provide early intervention when a student is struggling academically or financially, helping him or her change to a

different academic discipline if that's appropriate, or to work out a payment plan or find additional funding, the chancellor said. "How do we meet the student where they're at?" he said.

A "robust research program" will help NMSU supplement diminishing resources, Arvizu said. And it can help the university add value to sectors of the state's economy that are providing the greatest job opportunities, including agriculture, national security, energy, transportation, information technology and the commercialization of space. By providing New Mexico employers with graduates trained in high-demand fields, NMSU can also attract "industry partnerships to invest in our institution," Arvizu said. Potential partners are interested in a flourishing institution that provides employable graduates and has a curriculum aligned with "the market needs they care about," he said. It also means reaching out more to public schools and helping to address the statewide shortage of teachers and nurses.

It's important for

NMSU to "meet the needs of the community in which we reside," Arvizu said, and to foster economic development and create wealth as well as "educate the populace of New Mexico."

Arvizu wants to invigorate the university's nearly 75-year-old Physical Science Laboratory (PSL), which he said has been allowed "to atrophy precariously close to going out of business." PSL is "a huge asset," Arvizu said, with "capacity and capability" in research and many other areas. PSL was founded in 1946 to support scientific and technical activities around the world, according to nmsu.edu.

Being a robust university means doing more with less, Arvizu said. That means prioritizing NMSU's budget relative to its strategic objectives and aligning spending with priorities. "We need to take full advantage of all our assets, he said, "look at all of our processes and be sure we're doing the things necessary for success."

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THE LAS CRUCES
Bulletin

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NMSU PHOTO

NMSU enrollment up for first time in decade, improvements still needed

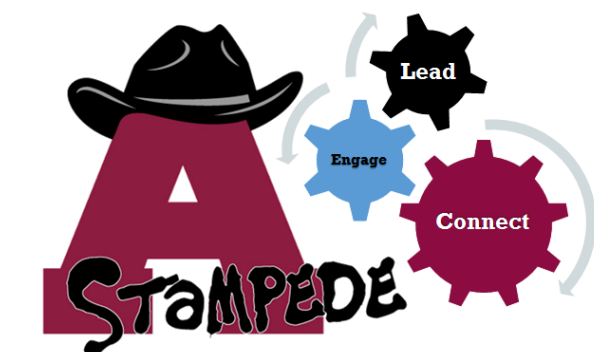
By MIKE COOK

Las Cruces Bulletin

“We’ve managed this year to stop the bleeding, so to speak,” New Mexico State University President John Floros said about enrollment figures that show the first increase in new students at NMSU in a decade.

“This is not small,” Floros said, noting that nearly every major university in the country has lost enrollment in recent years. Before the fall 2019 increase, NMSU had not had an enrollment gain since 2010, according to a university news release.

Growth was due in part to an 18 percent jump at NMSU’s graduate school, according to NMSU. The grad school enrolled 2,621 students this semester, which boosted the NMSU system’s overall unduplicated headcount to 24,041, including 14,298 students on the main campus in Las Cruces. NMSU also showed enrollment gains



on its community college campuses in Las Cruces and Carlsbad.

“We are very pleased with these topline results, and it clearly shows NMSU has stabilized enrollment and is poised for sustained growth,” NMSU Chancellor Dan Arvizu said in a news release.

“We hit our first goal in enrollment,” NMSU Vice President for Student Success Renay Scott said in an October interview.

But NMSU leaders aren’t satisfied with that, she said. They want university enrollment to grow 3 percent a year, including retaining existing

students and attracting new ones.

Nearly every university in the U.S. has experienced declining enrollment because of the disappearing middle class and declining birth rate, Scott said. But at the same time, there are more first-generation students than ever who know they need a college education to succeed in an economy that is different from the one their parents grew up with.

“These kids have to be successful, for Las Cruces, for New Mexico, for the U.S.,” Scott said.

The challenge for NMSU is to convince

them New Mexico’s land grant university is the right place for them, she said.

The turnaround in enrollment figures is due in part to a restructuring of NMSU recruitment efforts, Scott said. The university boosted its number of recruiters from nine to 13, including three who will have a regular, ongoing presence in Texas (two recruiters) and Arizona (one recruiter), Scott said. Eight recruiters are based “in every part of New Mexico all the time,” she said. Collectively, they are building relationships with high school counselors and with students and families across the state and throughout the region.

Today’s incoming university students “want to know who we are as an institution and what we think of them,” Scott said.

But recruitment is only part of the effort. Once students are enrolled, it’s

also Scott’s job to keep them at NMSU by improving their experience on and off-campus “from first contact to graduation,” as Floros said when he and Arvizu made Scott one of their first new appointments at NMSU in August 2018. She had previously served more than four years as president of Doña Ana Community College.

Aggie Stampede is a new program to better connect and engage incoming freshmen with all the university and the community has to offer in terms of activities and organizations, and to encourage them to be leaders “in their own unique and different ways,” Scott said.

Some of this year’s new students will then become leaders of next year’s Aggie Stampede, she said, helping the university to reach out to and build relationships with another freshman class.

Scott said 250 freshmen

were signed up for Aggie Stampede this fall and 200 are actively engaged in the program, participating in events like watch parties, movie nights and athletic events – they even have their own section of the football stadium. “Aggies support Aggies,” she said.

Developing lifelong friendships with fellow students and fostering a sense of belonging outside the classroom experience means students are more likely to stay at NMSU through graduation, Scott said.

Scott said student focus groups are also giving NMSU important feedback on changes it needs to make to improve students’ NMSU experience. Their expectation of instantaneous change is “a challenge for us,” she said, as the university implements improvements as quickly as possible.

Mike Cook may be reached at mike@lascrucesbulletin.com.

New NMSU provost makes Las Cruces her permanent home

By MIKE COOK

Las Cruces Bulletin

"I'm extremely excited to be here because the mission is so compelling," New Mexico State University Provost Carol Parker said in an Oct. 10 interview.

After service at three other major universities in the region, including as senior vice provost at the University of New Mexico and provost at the University of Texas at El Paso, Parker became NMSU provost and senior vice president of academic affairs on July 22. Her role includes supervising all NMSU deans and university faculty, as well as overseeing the quality of the degrees NMSU awards and how effectively it de-



NMSU PHOTO

NMSU Provost Carol Parker

livers them, recruiting, hiring and contracts, Parker said.

"(NMSU) is just the most exciting story in higher education," Parker said at the NMSU Pioneers lunch in August.

Parker grew up on a

dairy farm in Michigan and was a first-generation college student, beginning her academic career at a community college. She received a bachelor's degree in humanities from Michigan State University's Honors College, a master's degree in information science from The University of Michigan and a law degree from Wayne State University in Detroit. Parker worked as a research attorney at the Michigan Court of Appeals prior to her academic career, according to the NMSU website.

"I know the power of education to provide opportunity," Parker said.

Seeking to advance her career, Parker joined the faculty at the University of New Mexico School of

Law in 2004. She became part of UNM's central administration 10 years ago and spent a year in the provost's office at Arizona State University as part of a fellowship program before becoming provost at UTEP in 2017.

She sought the position at NMSU in part because she missed living and working in New Mexico. She and her husband have purchased a home in Las Cruces and are "here to stay," she said. "I've never experienced such a welcoming community as I have here in Las Cruces," Parker said. "I'm very happy here."

"Research universities are very special places and a privilege to work at," she said, providing

students and staff the opportunity to "interact daily with some of the most creative minds on the planet. They are 'critically important assets' that have contributed myriad major discoveries since World War II, are an essential element of national competitiveness and change the lives of students by opening their minds 'to the possibilities, the excitement of discoveries and new knowledge.'"

NMSU, in particular, is well positioned to make significant contributions in the coming years, Parker said. And it has the leadership team in place "to take advantage of these opportunities and circumstances," she said.

One of Parker's fore-

most tasks at NMSU will be to "improve compensation rates" for both faculty and staff at the university. Even though New Mexico supports its universities at a much higher rate than many other states, the salary scale at NMSU makes it "challenging to retain faculty," she said.

Her office is also working to improve outcomes for students, which will benefit the region, state and higher education in general, she said.

"Las Cruces and NMSU both have this wonderful sense of community," Parker said. "It is so important that we retain that."

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GO bond supports agricultural growth at NMSU

By MIKE COOK

Las Cruces Bulletin

Even though agriculture is in the very DNA of New Mexico State University – part of its mission, in fact, as one of the nation's more than 100 land-grant universities – there hasn't been a single new ag building built on the Las Cruces campus for a quarter century.

That's about to change.

Thanks to a general obligation bond passed by almost two-thirds of New Mexico voters in the November 2018 general election, about \$25 million will be generated for new construction to include the NMSU Food Science Learning and Safety Facility, the Biomedical Research Building and the Feed Milling and Processing Facility, all south of the horseshoe on the university's main campus.

That strong statewide support shows “the interest of the electorate in the importance of agriculture,” said Rolando A. Flores, dean of the NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). It also demonstrates support of NMSU's efforts “to develop value-added alternatives and options” for New Mexico agricultural products, the dean said.

The GO bond-backed facilities will complement NMSU's new Center of Excellence in Sustainable Food and Agricultural Systems established by the 2019 legislature, Flores said. The center will leverage funding from a number



NMSU PHOTO RENDERING COURTESY OF PARKHILL, SMITH AND COOPER

1) The Food Science Learning and Safety Facility; 2) the Biomedical Research Building; 3) the Feed Milling and Processing Facility that will be built in part with general obligation bond funds approved by New Mexico voters in November 2018.



NMSU PHOTO

Rolando Flores, dean of the NMSU College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

of sources to create three interdisciplinary faculty positions to address food safety and bioprocessing and sustainable water systems, according to ACES. NMSU is already known worldwide for its work with semi-arid environments, as well as pasture and cattle management, Flores said, and is a leader in the production of crops like

pecans and onions.

Taken together, the facilities will become “an engine for economic development,” the dean said, help protect the environment and have important social impact. They will also create new research and partnership opportunities with private businesses and other universities and provide new and expanded fields of study with additional faculty for ag students. And, they will create interdisciplinary programs that will link students, faculty and staff in ACES and other NMSU colleges, including engineering and business.

“Las Cruces is going to be a very important place not only in the Southwest but in the nation and worldwide,” Flores said. “We are really grabbing the future. It's almost like the stars are aligning. Everyone is going to know about NMSU as a hub for ag-

riculture and high-tech agriculture,” he said.

Flores said groundbreaking on the new buildings will likely be in the fall of 2020, with construction taking about two years.

NMSU will receive more than \$31 million total in capital outlay projects as a result of the GO bond election. That includes the \$25 million for the main campus, plus \$6.2 million in infrastructure upgrades, renovations and construction for Doña Ana Community College as well as NMSU branch colleges in Alamogordo, Carlsbad and Grants. Voters approved a total of \$128 million in GO bonds for all New Mexico colleges and universities, with NMSU receiving more than any other university in the state.

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New Mexico State University's newly constructed dormitory, Juniper Hall.

NMSU PHOTO
BY JOSH BACHMAN

New dormitory enhances residential life on NMSU campus

By ALEXIA SEVERSON

Las Cruces Bulletin

Opening just in time for move-in day in August of this year, Juniper Hall is the newest dormitory on New Mexico State University campus.

The new residence hall takes the place of the former 550-bed Monagle Hall, a three-story 1965 dormitory centrally located on the International Mall, which was demolished in spring 2017. Juniper Hall was built on a portion of the former Monagle Hall building site.

“NMSU went through a process for right-sizing housing for the entire campus,” said Heather Zack Watenpaugh, NMSU's university architect and campus planning officer. “Monagle Hall had exceeded its useful life and would have re-

quired major renovations. It was determined that a new 300-bed residence hall would best serve the student housing needs to support the First Year Residential Experience.”

While there are a few residency exemptions, first-time, full-time undergraduate students admitted to the NMSU are required to live in a residence hall on campus for their first academic year, or two semesters.

This requirement, which began in fall 2017, is based on research that shows when students live on campus, they gain many more benefits and rewards than those living off campus, according to the NMSU website.

“The design of the building will meet the programmatic needs for

Devasthali Hall offers new space to explore, experience art

By ALEXIA SEVERSON
Las Cruces Bulletin

New Mexico State University's newly constructed art department building, Devasthali Hall, opened its doors to fall semester students in August, with the gallery/museum wing expected to be completed in October.

The art department was previously located in D.W. Williams Hall, which was originally built as a gymnasium in 1938 and converted into an art building in 1972.

"The (old) building was really unsuited for the processes that we do as artists and then the building just had so many things wrong with it," said Julia Barelo, academic head for the department of art.

An analysis of D.W. Williams Hall showed that renovating the existing structures would be more expensive than constructing a new building and that a new facility would provide the best long-term value. Planning for the proposed new art building began in May 2015 with a design team in preparation for NMSU's top capital outlay priority for the Las Cruces campus to the 2016 Legislature.

The \$22.5 million was approved by voters as part of General Obligation Bond C in November 2016, and construction on the approximately 62,800 gross-square-foot facility began in March 2018, said Heather Zack Watenpaugh, NMSU's university architect and campus planning officer.

"The new facility includes the replacement



PHOTO BY ALEXIA SEVERSON

Students work on self-portraits in one of the spacious classrooms inside Devasthali Hall.



PHOTO BY ALEXIA SEVERSON

A room designed to store works of art in Devasthali Hall.

of the existing spaces with additional adjustments necessary to accommodate current enrollment, class size, safety, building codes, ADA and high performance mechanical and electrical requirements," Watenpaugh said. "The program includes spaces for sculpture, ceramics, metals/jewelry, drawing/painting, graphic design/printmaking, photography, conservation, administration and the University Art Museum."

The building was named in honor of

Ammu and Rama Devasthali, who were instrumental in demonstrating the need for a new art building on campus, helped raise private donations for the project and promoted the general obligation bond with voters, according to an NMSU news release.

Along with the Devasthali, Barelo said there's been a huge cohort for years who have been in support of the art department and building a new facility.

Now that Devasthali Hall is open, Barelo said some students have ad-



COURTESY PHOTO BY TREY BROOMFIELD, UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM

Devasthali Hall, NMSU's new art department building.

mitted to feeling a touch of nostalgia for the old art building. However, most are enjoying the new space.

"I think people appreciate having this crisp, clean new space and a lot of the studios are bigger, so students have bigger work areas," she said. "There's all these collaborative work spaces where students can do critiques separate from the studios."

The mixed-use and overlapping work spaces the new building provides supports the evolving discipline of art, Barelo said.

"We'll be able to host workshops and we'll be able to bring sculpture students and painting students together in a single workspace so they can work together," she said. "So, we're going to be able to start using this

great asset that we have to really support interdisciplinary, collaborative research, so that's the really exciting piece of it."

While the main purpose of the new building is to serve NMSU students, Devasthali Hall was also designed with the Las Cruces community in mind.

"What we wanted was a building that provided a bridge between the community of Las Cruces and the community of NMSU," Barelo said. "And so, the building physically does that; there's these interior spaces that create that linkage. So, that was a hope I had, and I hope that comes to fruition because we really want to bring the community into the building."

A big part of attracting the community into the

building is through the University Art Museum. The University Art Gallery closed its doors inside D.W. Williams Hall on May 11, and the new University Art Museum will reopen in Devasthali Hall on Feb. 28, 2020, with a premiere exhibition titled, "Labor: Motherhood & Art in 2020."

"We really want people to feel like this is a building that has all this exhibited art and has all this art being made and people are welcome to come and observe that and interact," Barelo said.

For information about the University Art Museum, call 575-646-2545 or visit uag.nmsu.edu or facebook.com/NMSU-ARTMUSEUM.

Alexia Severson may be contacted at alexia@las-crucesbulletin.com.

NMSU students, staff, community members converge at Pete's Patio

By ALEXIA SEVERSON

Las Cruces Bulletin

This year Pete's Patio, a new grill and pub restaurant located on the outdoor courtyard in Corbett Center Student Union, opened to NMSU students, faculty, staff and the Las Cruces community, offering a place to unwind, relax and meet with friends, classmates and co-workers.

While alcoholic beverages are served to students of legal drinking age at other NMSU events, such as football games, Pete's Patio, named for NMSU's mascot, Pistol Pete, is NMSU's first on-campus bar.

"We have, over the years, had several of our student leaders, including our (Associated Students of NMSU) presidents, who have indicated that it would be really nice for students to have a place on campus where they can socialize and maybe have a drink – responsibly of course," said Interim Director of Corbett Center Student Union Julie Hughes.

"We had this beautiful patio here in Corbett that



A view of Pete's Patio, located on the courtyard of Corbett Center Student Union at NMSU.

wasn't really being utilized, and so when Steve Bettner joined us as our assistant vice president for Auxiliary Services, he really listened to the students," she said.

It wasn't long before the concept of Pete's Patio came to life, with construction on the project beginning in summer 2018. Following an opening celebration for the bar in January, the restaurant portion of Pete's Patio welcomed students, faculty and staff in April.

Along with a full menu, Pete's Patio includes a firepit, outdoor furniture

and several tables and chairs in a cantina-style setting.

"Pete's Patio is not just alcohol; we serve food as well," said Director of NMSU Dining Dwayne Wisniewski. "And I know there's been some confusion as to who can come – all students, all ages are welcome, just like any restaurant out there...So, this is a collision point for not only our students, but for staff and faculty and the community that's around here, to come on in and enjoy it, because this is their place."

Wisniewski said Pete's



The recently added game room, located next to Pete's Patio.

Patio's menu and prices are geared toward students, making it affordable for them to come in and get a meal and a non-alcoholic drink for less than \$10.

"We take Aggie Dining Dollars, so they can use their meal plans to purchase the food," he said. "And so (Pete's Patio) is primarily for the students."

So far, Pete's Patio has been a success, Hughes said.

"I think the students enjoy having the space," she said. "We do a lot of programming here and I think they like the opportunity to come and unwind and relax."

Student programming offered at Pete's Patio includes trivia nights, tarot

card readings and open mic nights.

"The open mic nights this semester have been extremely successful," Hughes said. "Our students are really excited about the opportunity to have some place to express themselves."

Hughes said Pete's Patio is a work in progress and that more things may be added the restaurant and bar to better accommodate students in the future.

One recent addition to Pete's Patio is an indoor game room, which can be entered via the patio area, and includes pool tables, a foosball table, air hockey, video games and an arcade claw machine.

"I don't think anything in Corbett Center is complete because we're always

going to be adapting and adjusting to what serves our students best," she said. "So, we're always going to be looking at opportunities to grow anything in the student union building and Pete's Patio is no exception to that."

"If there's an opportunity for us to do something different and we get a lot of support from our students to do it, then we'll certainly look at it."

Hughes said students who have ideas they want to share about how to improve or enhance Pete's Patio can call the information desk at Corbett Center Student Union at 575-646-4411 to let them know they're interested in talking to someone about Pete's Patio, or email ccsu@nmsu.edu.

Pete's Patio can also be reserved as a meeting space or event and fundraising space for clubs and organizations, Wisniewski said. For information, contact Conference Services at 575-646-4805 or Auxiliary Services at 575-646-4212.

Alexia Severson may be contacted at alexia@las-crucesbulletin.com.

DORM

CONTINUED FROM 8

the First-Year Residential Experience that encourages self-discovery and a thirst for knowledge," Watenpaugh said. "Living Learning Communities in the residence hall will be provided for outreach to students to increase leadership development activities under the guidance of residential staff."

This facility will also support student engagement and academic success through enhanced living learning communities and other residential amenities, Watenpaugh said.

"Multi-purpose rooms will be used for both classroom and gathering spaces," she said. "The building will include laundry and study rooms, as well as a community kitchen space."

Dormitory rooms include loftable and adjustable extra-long twin beds, desks and chairs, dressers, large shared bathrooms, free basic cable and Ethernet Internet connections.

The name "Juniper Hall" was born out of a student survey that was conducted regarding possible names for the new building. In December 2018, the former ASNMSU President Emerson Mor-

row presented "Juniper Hall" as the new name, and the NMSU Board of Regents approved.

Juniper Hall, and existing housing renovations, were funded by Improvement Revenue Bonds.

For information on Juniper Hall and other residence halls on campus, visit housing.nmsu.edu.

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Students stand outside Juniper Hall, NMSU's new dormitory, on move-in day in fall 2019.

NMSU PHOTO BY JOSH BACHMAN



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