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David Harris - Biography

David W. Harris

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I am honored to have been named as UNM’s acting president. It is an exciting time for the university as enrollment continues to grow, graduation rates are up, research programs and funding have increased, and construction is taking place to provide students and faculty with impressive, state of the art educational and teaching facilities.

I expect the next several months to bring a time of thoughtful renewal of our commitment to the university’s basic strength of educating students. UNM is built on the foundation of our faculty, students and staff, working together to learn grow and teach. Certainly, our success is in our students and the professors who help prepare them for their future careers. More than 60% of UNM students stay in New Mexico and will become our future physicians, lawyers and business people. Their imagination and enthusiasm will help shape our community in years to come, thanks in part to what they learn at UNM.
I am particularly excited about the physical expansion and growth taking place at UNM. The new architecture and planning building is rising on Central Avenue, and the ground breaking for the new Centennial Engineering building is scheduled for this fall. Construction of the new Barbara and Bill Richardson Pavilion at the University Hospital will continue through the year, along with the Domenici Health Education Building. Renovation will begin shortly on the Biology and the Communications and Journalism Buildings which will also contribute to the renewal of our campus.

I’m honored to be part of a university that is instrumental in producing the future leaders of our community, our state, our nation. The University of New Mexico is the product of generations of big dreams, from the first 75 students who took classes in Hodgin Hall more than a century ago, to the nearly 33,000 students now enrolled. We invite students who are thinking of coming to UNM to visit the campus, and talk with our faculty and students. We look forward to sharing the dream with you.

-- David W. Harris