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20210203_A New Year for HSLIC

Melissa L. Rethlefsen

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center, Albuquerque New Mexico

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HSLIC News - LibGuides at University of New Mexico

A New Year for HSLIC

by Melissa Rethlefsen on February 3rd, 2021 | [o Comments](#)



Photo of footsteps at White Sands National Park by Melissa Rethlefsen

We're now into the second month of 2021, and what a year it has been! Since I started in my new role as Executive Director for HSLIC on January 1, we've seen a world under continued strain, but also rays of hope, especially as vaccination rates climb.

As HSLIC, we're also hopeful. We are currently planning for what a phased, safe, and healthy reopening of our physical spaces might look like. Though in the past, HSLIC has been as much a social hub as a study space, we are focusing on students' primary need: quiet, individual study space. As we finalize our plans and roll them out, we'll be sharing the details.

Another thing that keeps us hopeful are our plans to make HSLIC available 24x7 to all UNM HSC students. The final construction projects that will enable 24x7 to happen are underway, and we're looking forward to having this highly anticipated service available later this spring.

As the new Executive Director, I'm focusing on HSLIC's immediate future and its long-term role within the Health Sciences Center. One thing that's really important to me is our role in creating welcoming, inclusive, and accessible spaces and opportunities for all members of our diverse community. Whether it's hosting events and discussions, sharing resources, or participating in

campus diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility initiatives, I believe we have a special role to fill. I'm proud to join my HSLIC colleagues already deeply engaged in this work, whether it's [reimagining our Native Health Database](#), [partnering with White Coats for Black & Indigenous Lives to preserve their work](#), or creating resource guides to help providers and community members find information on [LGBTQ+ health](#). I look forward to seeing how we can continue to improve, grow, and partner with our communities in these efforts.

Be well, stay safe, and keep learning!

Melissa Rethlefsen, HSLIC Executive Director

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