



## **BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES** **AUGUST 30, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, August 30, 2024, In Person and Via Zoom in Cutting Hall, Northern New Mexico College, El Rito Campus. Regents Present in person and Viz Zoom: Michael A. Martin, Porter Swentzell, Regent Casandra Batista Dauz, Regent Ruben Archuleta and Regent Erica Velarde.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Larry Guerrero, EdD, Interim Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Geno Trujillo, Director of Security, TJ Stukes, Women's Assistant Basketball Coach, Henry Ocaña, Facilities, Juan Gallegos, IT, Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Carolina Alegre, El Rito Administrative Coordinator, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Rishi Poudal, Institutional Research Assistant, Milam Shah, Communications Coordinator, Arin McKenna, Staff Writer/Reporter, Evette Abeyta, Budget Director, Joshua Lopez, Dual Credit, Edwina Romero, Dual Credit, Cecilia Romero, Director of Continuing Adult Education, Sara McCormick, Career Services Specialist, Martin Shupla, Director of Library, Carmella Sanchez, Director of Institutional Research, David Sandoval, Office Manager, El Rito Campus, Frank Loera, Director, Career Technical Education, Janice Baca, Registrar, and Amy Peña, Executive Office Director.

Faculty Present: Scott Braley, Faculty Senate President, JB Moore, David Lindblom, Farjahan Shawon

Others Present: Nicholas Atencio, John Ussery, Tim Crone, Jake Arnold, Barbara Campbell, Bruce Smith, Leo Valdez, Jasie Green, Student Senate President, Dolores Gurule, Roberta Orona Cordova.

Board President Martin thanked all the staff in El Rito and Espanola who worked so hard in the last year to bring back our campus. Cecilia Romero, Dr. Frank Loera, Shawn Madrid, Henry Ocaña, Joe Gonzales and Herminio Padilla. Thank you so much.

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:07AM

## **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the agenda as presented. Second – Batista Daus. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes.**

## **III. PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Leo Valdez stated he is a graduate of El Rito High School and President of the Alumni Association. (inaudible) They just had their Board meeting recently and had been working with Matt Baca, General Counsel regarding the Memorandum of Understanding and made some small changes and they are here to recommend and ask for approval when it comes up on the agenda. (inaudible). Board President Martin asked if there were questions for Mr. Valdez.

Mr. John Ussery stated he is happy to see people on campus and as a long resident of El Rito he loves it when he sees things happening on campus. He is here for the celebration today as well and to see some programs and he is taking a couple of courses. (inaudible). We need more enrollment and there are some great opportunities for federal funding for workforce development (inaudible). He would like to see the college move ahead and pursue opportunities. Let's move on.

## **IV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

### **A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports**

#### **1. Governance Committee**

Regent Swentzell stated the governance committee met to discuss best practices and will continue to meet in terms of transition planning, etc.

#### **2. Housing Committee**

Regent Archuleta stated they have been meeting with architects and consultants. We are looking to remodel the dorms and get pricing and working on the Espanola project next. We been moving faster and are pretty excited for that.

### 3. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee

Regent Archuleta stated we had a good meeting Wednesday and there will be items on the agenda to approve coming up. It was a very good meeting. Mr. Matt Baca, General Counsel stated Theresa Storey, CFO presented and the committee also discussed the MOU and it will be on the agenda.

### 4. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Swentzell stated the committee met a few days ago and Dr. Guerrero provided some updates and the key parts will be provided at this meeting. It was a good meeting.

### 5. HERC Committee

Board President Martin stated regarding HERC they have announced their annual meeting on October 22 and 23 at NMSU and have decided to open up a position for executive director. That should go up this week or so. We will be discussing it at the annual meeting on October 22 and 23. Ms. Peña will be making arrangements for the Board of Regents to go.

## V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of June 28, 2024 meeting.

**Regent Batista Dauz moved to approve the minutes of June 28, 2024. Second - Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Regent Velarde was not present for this motion.**

## VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### A. Celebrate Northern

President Balderas welcomed everyone. It is an exciting morning. We have some great news to report and in addition to this we will share a meal and groundbreaking on some of the recreational improvements we have made for the community, most importantly for our future Eagles and our students. He does not think some of these renovations have been looked at in decades. We hope you join us for the celebration. The semester is off to an amazing start. We had convocation and new student orientation.

Our semester is off to a great start with **Convocation Week, New Student Orientation and the first week of classes**. We had 170 students at New Student Orientation. President Balderas thanked to Haylie Baca and the NSO Committee for organizing NSO activities and to Student Services, Enrollment Management and all the faculty and staff who participated and helped to introduce our new students to our campus and all that Northern has to offer. Thank you to Tammy Winston and Student Life for planning some great Welcome Week activities.

President Balderas stated he would like to celebrate our historic enrollment growth and he will refer to Vice President Guerrero to share some of the data more specifically. President Balderas would like everyone to know in our community, we are not just trending in the right direction, we are beating our peer sets in the State of New Mexico. We are beating other institutions of higher education in New Mexico and furthermore, we are also trending in the opposite positive direction when certain campuses across this country are experiencing enrollment decline, we are processing more financial aid applications and more student applications and are in the top echelon of our state schools in New Mexico. We are smashing it. There is not a whole lot of positive things to report in our rural communities but we are exceeding expectations where the Governor and Secretary of Higher Education ever thought we would be.

President Balderas thanked Valentina Livingston and Martin Shupla for their amazing work in bringing **Bear Grease** here to Northern. For President Balderas this was historic because they were amazing native American performers. In just three weeks they managed to secure sponsors and organize not only the performance but a cast dinner, a meet and greet, a panel discussion and an after party that had to be cancelled due to the threat of rain. It was an incredible performance, and thanks to our sponsors we were able to offer it free to our students and our community. Our staff, students and faculty were very engaged with the panel discussion, where Cloud and his cast members stressed the importance of education and their pride in sharing the healing power of laughter through their performances.

To help cover the performance fee, our Film & Digital Media Arts Department students and professors produced a promotional video when the performance was happening. Bear Grease will use the film they recorded for an updated video for their performance.

Our staff, students and community really came together to help make this possible. President Balderas acknowledged:

- TJ Hilton and David Lindblom from the Center for the Arts
- Larry Guerrero, Amy Pena and Sally Martinez from our administrative offices
- Alicia Naranjo, Marcel Povijua, Rachel Begay and Farjahan Shawon from the Native American Student Organization

- Milam Shah, Sandy Krolick and Arin McKenna from our Communications Department
- Geno Trujillo and his Security Team
- Nicholas Atencio, Cipriano Marquez and Stevannah Marquez from our Northern Veterans Student Club
- Edwina Romero
- And our community sponsors Trout Stalker Ranch, Santa Clara Governor Michael Chavarria, the Santa Claran Hotel, our Native American Center and the President's Eagle Fund

This production was showing in Santa Fe at one of the elite wealthy theatre company groups that had wealthy donors in Santa Fe and we said why not, why can't Espanola who has pueblos and rich history host a production like this and a group of individuals came together and thought this was a civil rights issue. Our sponsors were Trout Stalker Ranch who came in with a \$7,500 donation, Santa Clara Governor Michael Chavarria who kicked in about \$3,000 worth of rooms at the Santa Claran Hotel, our Native Center and the President's Eagle Fund kicked in equally.

President Balderas is excited to announce the launch of two brand-new, student-centered interactive publications: Northern's new website and online catalog— projects that have been two years in the making and have taken Northern to a new level of operational excellence. These remarkable achievements are the result of the combined efforts of our Communications & Marketing, Title V, and IT Teams, and the contributions of just about every department of the College.

Lead by our dedicated Web Governance team, with Sandy, Kristy, Deb, Janett, Milam, and Scott, this endeavor was born about two years ago out of a vision to create a website with modern tech, great content, ease of use, that is truly focused on student needs. The result is a modern, polished, and beautiful platform that will serve as a vital resource for our entire college community.

President Balderas stated he also wants to celebrate NNMC in hosting various dignitaries who are in the forefront of public policy decision making. One of the things he always asks our dignitaries is that they involve a student centric connection to our community and our students.

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham held her third stop for her Public Safety Tour on campus. It's important to open our campus to these community-centered events, and I'm grateful to the Governor for choosing to host that event here.

It was a pleasure to host the New Mexico Land Grant Commission here last month. President Balderas thanked Interim Provost Dr. Larry Guerrero, along with Sandra Rodriguez, Lori Baca, Joe Padilla and Frank Loera for updating the Commission on the success of our programs and how they are benefitting our rural communities. President Balderas also thanked Senator Leo Jaramillo, the Española police department and LOS GUYS CC for arranging a lowrider cruise through Española at the end of the day.

President Balderas updated everyone on the strategic partnerships we are engaging in:

The newly appointed Site Manager at the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management Los Alamos Field Office Jessica Kunkle visited our campus in July. Larry Guerrero and Dr. Sushmita Nandy conducted a tour of our Biology, Chemistry & Environmental Science/Radiation Protection labs and classrooms and updated Ms. Robertson and her colleagues on our programming and resources in those disciplines. Española Mayor John Ramon Vigil and City Manager Eric Lujan joined Ms. Robertson and her group as a liaison for the city. We believe this is the first time we have had a visit from the Office of Environmental management, so it was a great opportunity to show off our campus and everything we have to offer.

Dr. Guerrero also joined a lively panel discussion on STEM in Schools sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Los Alamos County at the Los Alamos Science Fest.

President Balderas thanked Century Bank for presenting us with a \$5,000 check for the Northern Scholarship Fund. Century Bank has been a great supporter of the scholarship fund, donating over \$60,000 towards student scholarships and student success initiatives in the past decade.

President Balderas congratulated 10 of our outstanding students who have been awarded the 2024 Career Pathways Scholarships from the LANL Foundation. NNMC is incredibly proud of these students for their dedication and hard work. Give a shout out to:

Jessica Corrales  
Carla Gasca  
Jade Madrid  
Camille Moquino  
Jazmyne Rodriguez  
Mariah Sweeney-Naranjo  
Mariah Varela  
Michelle Garcia  
Esperanza Gonzales  
Destiny Martinez

President Balderas congratulated an alumna of our Teacher Education department, Yolanda Gasca, who received a LANL Foundation 2024 Excellence in Teaching Award. Yolanda was nominated by colleagues and students for her outstanding contributions to education. She teaches 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Velarde Elementary School, where she began her career decades ago as the school's bus driver. She went on to become an educational assistant and then was encouraged by Dr. Sandra Rodriguez to complete her bachelor's degree in education and become a licensed teacher. She is working toward her level two license while continuing to drive the bus.

President Balderas thanked Tammy Winston and Student Life for hosting several events for Pride Month, including participating in the Santa Fe Pride Parade. They do an amazing job every year. It's important to support our LGBTQ+ students, and we are committed to ensuring every student feels accepted and valued.

President Balderas stated he would like to give a shout out to our new tenants, Coaches Samantha and Tj Stukes, who recently moved into one of our faculty houses. They are going to be drivers here on this campus to drive more participation from student athletes who will reside here when we have student housing. President Balderas would like to thank Coach Stukes and Coach Jesus Aragon and several MBB and WBB players for their work on remodeling exercise room at the Eagle Sportsplex. A special thanks to custodians Cesar Lopez and his wife for helping with that as well. It was a huge team effort all-around.

Our athletics department was named to the NAIA Gold 5-Star Institution list. The criteria for that honor are: "Institutions are measured on a demonstrated commitment to Champions of Character and earn points in character training, conduct in competition, academic focus, character recognition and character." We also had 18 of our players named Academic All-Conference players.

President Balderas wants to also celebrate the increased activity that we are seeing here on the El Rito campus. We are working on:

- Working with Living Design Group Architects out of Taos, New Mexico. We received completed drawings and construction plans for Grant Gymnasium and the Dorms that we are excited to share with you today.
- We have been working on getting housing in El Rito ready for occupancy. Coach Stukes and her family have moved in two houses down from the President. Staff occupy the both duplexes, and we have procured the services of Servpro of Northwest Albuquerque for the major cleanup of the apartment on NM 554.
- Water tank



- Capital Outlay
  - 500 thousand to plan, design, const. and equip on El Rito Campus.

### **Eagle Award/Branch CC**

- President Balderas highlighted for the Board the recipient of this year's Eagle Award which went to the team who is behind our Trades and Career Technical Education program. President Balderas recognized Frank Loera and Joe Padilla.
- Just a few of their accomplishments over the past year have been:
  - Deliver trades educations at more than 7 sites all across New Mexico, increasing enrollment and Northern's recognition as institution of choice across the region;
  - Rejuvenation of metal trades building: the team is actively working to rejuvenate the metal trades building to bring more opportunities for trades instruction to Española campus;
  - Expanding carpentry program with union partnerships, new Associate of Arts;
  - Expanding workforce initiatives through various partnerships and grant funding opportunities.
- Moving into the near future, this group will work from leaders in the nursing school, business school, and other programs to develop a Branch Development plan for program development and building a sustainable financial model to match our goals for the Branch
- President Balderas stated this planning comes as we have already:
  - 5-year plan, included 80% collection rate of Mill Levy. As a result, the budget plan was conservative and we have a Fund Balance of about 6 million at the close of Fiscal Year 24.
  - Adjustments were made to the Plan (budget) in FY25. The Branch budget was accepted by the Branch Board and approved within the overall College Budget by BOR.
  - The adjustments to the plan included:
    - 33% increase to Vocational Technical Instruction - Frank Loera was named the Director of CTE, Joe Padilla assumed the role of Chair, and Carolina Alegre is our new Administrative Coordinator/Liaison.
    - 3% increase to Academic Administration
    - 4% increase to General Administrative and logistical services
    - 2% increase to Maintenance and Operation of Plant - added security personnel on El Rito campus.
    - 128% increase to BR&R - opportunity to address our trades facilities in all locations as well as leverage Fund Balance, Capital Outlay and Grant opportunities such as Casa Connection award.
    - Adjustment to revenue assumptions, considering the collection rate of the taxes remains steady at around 94%.



- Program growth
  - 7 Locations - Albuquerque, Espanola, El Rito, Los Alamos, Gallina, Jemez Valley, Espanola Valley High School
  - Overall growth from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024. We will have accurate counts for Fall to assess growth after Census date on Sep 6, 2024
  - In El Rito specifically, we saw growth in non-dual credit Students in the Spring 2024, as well as preliminarily in Fall 2024.
- Capital Outlay
  - 1 million for Trades and Workforce development

Carolina Alegra reported the following to the Board of Regents

In her six months working at Northern as an Administrative Coordinator and Community Liaison, I have been getting to know the wonderful people that help the College be what it is today. I am also getting to know the community of El Rito and the surrounding areas more, as I am approached by its members every week. The interest and love for this campus is huge. I have been taking time to listen to the needs of this community to better understand how this campus can serve them. I have been collecting resumes, business cards and data to ensure that when this campus's infrastructure is ready that we have the staff and the students prepared to infuse it with life.

In line with the president's directive for aiming for student success

- about a month ago, we had an adobe Horno building class that I helped co-ordinate for the first time with the Continuing Ed program. The class was a success, and now the El Rito campus has two hornos to be proud of. My appreciation goes to the instructors of this class: Quentin Wilson, Eliud Salazar and Bill Thornton. They all brought to the table an immense amount of knowledge about the old tradition of building with adobe.
- The caterer for that event (yes, we had a caterer) will now be teaching a class that will share the wisdom of cooking with blue corn and its stages from kernel to tortilla that will take place in this cafeteria through the Continuing Ed program which is expected to happen this October.

In accordance with our mission of building strategic partnerships

- I have been working with community navigators from organizations such as non-profit Forest Stewards Guild and Coalitions and Collaboratives Inc to expand on our operational excellence by identifying those step-by-step actions in order to ensure optimal usage of our resources as well as looking for available avenues for the current position of this campus and to increase our revenue. Cecilia Romero, my supervisor and Ann-Marie and Nick, our grant writers, have been supporting these meetings.

- I am helping revise the newest edition of the MOU between the College and the ERAA, since their board has changed almost entirely. I have the support of Matt Baca concerning this document.
- In our goal of operational success, we have submitted two grants, one is in hopes to continue to beautify this campus by creating pollinator gardens through the Carroll Petrie Foundation in Santa Fe, this grant is called “Bee Campus” (B-E-E) and we hope to hear from them by mid-October for a final decision; in my last meeting they seemed really pleased with our proposal so we are aiming for next spring to implement these gardens. The other grant is to help bring the greenhouse up to code, conforming with being good stewards of resources entrusted to our care; this grant is through Con Alma Health Foundation which helps under-resourced communities in New Mexico, especially in rural areas.
- Late June we had 3 days with volunteers from Ghost Ranch’s college; middle and high schoolers helped painting for our housing project as well as simple grounds keepings; we painted the handicapped parking again and we used our pile of wood chips we had on site for some simple landscaping. I’m grateful for Henry, Shawn and Herminio that helped with keeping the kids involved and engaged while having fun.

Lastly, Thanks to the encouragement of Mr. President Martin, we have had a monthly movie night here, in Cutting Hall for the last 3 months; with each gathering, more people are coming and enjoying the space and the community time. This has allowed me to introduce myself to the attendees and get their contact information to open a communication thread with the locals.

## B. CUP/NMICC Report

President Balderas stated CUP recently held its annual planning meeting, where the comprehensive colleges and universities discussed relevant issues and shared priorities for this coming legislative session. I think the most notable topics of discussion that are of interest to the Board surrounded funding:

- University funding, both I&G and RPSP
  - We discussed emerging issues and future considerations around the funding formula and the sustainability of funding models like the Opportunity Scholarship
  - We received an update from HED regarding the workgroup they have to examine the higher education funding, in particular the funding formula, with the purpose of examining funding models for sustainability and equity into the future

- They have contracted with a firm to get substantive feedback on the formula moving forward, and at this point in the work they have identified each school's peer sets for just operating budgets to set a baseline for how each college or university looks from purely an operating standpoint
- They anticipate having a final report by the end of the year or at the beginning of next year, and we will keep the Board apprised of those results
- We also heard from Secretary Rodriguez regarding RPSP funding, and she indicated that the Department will be supportive of some of those asks; you will hear ours later in the meeting, and so we look forward to hopefully having the Executive's support on those asks
- We also heard from DFA and LFC about the State's revenue projections and where they see funding going for the upcoming budget year
  - At this point, as you may have already read, the State anticipates about \$600M-700M in "new money"
  - The message out of the agencies is familiarly conservative, with them indicating that we should not get our hopes up for too much budget growth
  - But they also indicated that reserves are very strong, in addition to that fair amount, albeit not record "new money," so we are optimistic that our priorities will be given serious consideration
- Finally, we heard from the heads of the GO Bond committee, who are doing a tremendous amount of organizing among the higher ed institutions to consolidate our efforts to support the Bond, which appears as Bond 3 on this November's ballot
  - Northern will benefit from \$5M for campus improvements with this round of bond funding
  - So, they are encouraging us to get the word out in our communities, encouraging folks to support the bond as a local economic driver and of course supporting our mission of higher education
  - Notably, a focus of the campaign is getting the message out that the GO Bond will not result in raising taxes

President Balderas stated Senator Munoz, Chair of the LFC thanked the group for not raising tuition while the workgroup continues to examine the higher education funding formula.

### C. NNMCM Foundation

President Balderas stated:

- a. FY24 Philanthropic Donations July 1, 2023 to June 20, 2024 - \$261,118.00
- b. FY25 Philanthropic Donations July 2, 2024 to August 23, 2024 - \$13,665.00
- c. Northern New Mexico College and Foundation will soon launch a \$1,000,000 President's Eagle Fund Campaign 2025. The campaign is designed to support a robust focus on value, student success and positive changes with new technology. (see attached card)

A lead gift donor is currently in negotiation and once declared the Campaign and the donor will be announced to the public.

- d. President Balderas, Joe Padilla, NNMCM Technical Trades Chair and Judith Pepper, Major Gifts Officer, recently traveled to Gunnison, CO and met with donor Mr. Ralph E. Clark, III and presented a \$158,000 proposal to fund a faculty position for 2 years for the new Trades Carpentry Program. Mr. Clark generously agreed and will provide a multiyear gift for the initial 2 years of programming.
- e. On the Gunnison trip, President Balderas and team also met with Western Colorado University, President Brad Baca and team to develop a collaborative Trades Boot Camp to be held in Gunnison, CO in early summer 2025. This will be a joint effort and Mr. Ralph E. Clark will fund the expenses for NNMCM students and faculty for this week-long initiative.

### D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

President Balderas introduced the following staff and faculty:

#### **Bradley Arocho**

#### **Assistant Basketball Coach**

Bradley Arocho, a new Assistant Basketball Coach, grew up playing basketball in Puerto Rico. He started coaching in high school, winning high school championships as both player and coach. He won several championships serving as assistant coach at the University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, while pursuing his BA at Pontifical

Catholic University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. He organized recruiting events around the U.S. as director and scout for the National Youth program. At 36 he transitioned into coaching in El Salvador, Mexico, Venezuela and Puerto Rico, where he championed the integration of advanced analytics to optimize team performance and individual player growth.

### **Ali Aslan**

#### **Assistant Professor**

Ali Aslan, who joins us as an Assistant Professor in the Math & Physical Science Department, was born in Istanbul and earned his Bachelor of Science in Physics from Istanbul University. After completing his Master's degree in Physics at Texas Tech University, where he also taught for five years, he moved to New Mexico in 2023. Ali's research focuses on solid-state physics, particularly secondary electron emission. He has also conducted research in gravitational wave astronomy and have a strong interest in computer science.

### **David Chacon Perez**

#### **Safety & Security Officer**

One of our new Safety & Security Officers, David Chacon Perez, was born in Española and raised in Dumas, Texas. He started working in the oil fields in 2018 and returned to Española in 2022 to further his education. David is working toward a CDL while at Northern so he and his father can open their own trucking business.

### **Michael Gideon**

#### **Assistant Professor, Engineering & Technology**

Mike Gideon joins Northern as an Assistant Professor in Information Engineering Technology for the Engineering & Technology Department. He comes from Reno, Nevada, where he served as the IT Department Chair for the Career College of Northern Nevada. Mike graduated from Capella University with a Ph. D in Information Technology and received his master's degree in IT/Security from Kaplan University.

### **Roxann Gordon**

#### **Instructor, Nursing & Health Sciences**

Roxann Gordon, a new Instructor in Nursing & Health Sciences, hails from Maryland. She completed her BSN at the University of Maryland and MS degrees at Georgetown University. She has been a Labor & Delivery Nurse and Certified Nurse-Midwife for over 20 years. She first began visiting New Mexico in 1999 and completed her Maternal Child Health and Midwifery training in Socorro in 2004. She moved to Santa Fe one year ago to take a position as a school nurse at New Mexico School for the Deaf, where she is actively learning ASL. Her professional mantra is: "Each One – Teach One."

### **Michael Harper**

#### **Assistant Professor**

Michael Harper is joining Northern as an Assistant Professor in the Language & Letters Department. He received his MA in Anglophone Literatures and Cultures from the University of Vienna and an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Idaho. He worked as an ELL teacher for several years and taught Composition and Creative Writing at the University of Idaho for the last three years. Michael is currently the Associate Prose Editor at the magazine *West Trade Review* and his creative writing has been published or is forthcoming in *Ninth Letter*, *Hobart*, *Fugue*, *Terrain.org*, *The Los Angeles Review* and many others.

**Lisa Jaurigue**  
**Instructor**

Lisa Jaurigue joins Northern New Mexico College as an RN-BSN Instructor in our Nursing Department. Her experience includes 34 years as a Registered Nurse and 23 years as nurse faculty at the baccalaureate level. Lisa obtained her BSN and MSN-Ed from Grand Canyon University and her PhD in nursing from the University of San Diego. She completed two fellowships: The University of Arizona's Integrative Nurse Faculty Fellowship and an Environmental Health Nurse Fellowship from the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environment. She is a certified teacher with the Mindfulness Institute for Emerging Adults. Her recent teaching includes online and in-person research and evidence-based practice, community health and professional attributes courses.

**Jerina Madayag**  
**Assistant Women's Basketball Coach**

Jerina Madayag, a new Assistant Women's Basketball Coach, comes to Northern with a tremendous amount of basketball knowledge and experience. She is the co-owner of Hardwood Equity National Scouting & Recruiting Service and has worked many years with high school, college and professional players.

**Chyna Meza**  
**Safety & Security Officer**

Chyna Meza is a newly appointed Safety and Security Officer. Originally from Albuquerque, she has lived in Northern New Mexico for the past 10 years. Chyna is a Pueblo Native from Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, where she resides. She is excited about the opportunity and the possibility of furthering her education and training at Northern.

**Medhi Nikpour**  
**Assistant Professor**

Medhi Nikpour has joined the Mathematics & Physical Science Department as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Medhi has a PhD in Pure Mathematics from the University of Toledo. He also holds a master's in Theoretical Physics from Shiraz University and a bachelor's in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tehran. Medhi brings years of teaching experience of a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate mathematics and statistics core courses to an extremely diverse student body.



He also has experience teaching and coaching high school and undergraduate university students for national and international mathematics competitions

### **Roslyn Vigil**

#### **Safety & Security Officer**

Roslyn Vigil was born and raised in Albuquerque. After graduating from Valley High School, she enlisted in the New Mexico Army National Guard as a truck driver for six years. Roslyn was also a Correctional Officer at the State Prison in Santa Fe. She was accepted to the New Mexico State Police Academy and served for five years. Roslyn has decided to further her education and will pursue her behavioral health degree here at Northern.

I also want to welcome our new Custodian, Saul Perez.

President Balderas stated those conclude his reports. Board President Martin asked if there were questions from the President. The Board had no questions.

## **VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT**

Scott Braley, Faculty Senate President stated the Faculty Senate will have its first meeting next week. He does not have a report but welcome and we look forward to a new school year.

## **VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Green stated they just started and kicking things off. She is a senior at northern and going for a degree in Electrotechnology Technology. The student senate is going to be very involved this year and if there are any ideas, please let her know. They are getting meeting dates for this semester and working on a leadership Title V is helping with and will be voting at the meeting at 11:00AM. Ms. Green would like to introduce all the officers at the next Board of Regents meeting. There are currently only 4 members but there will be a broadcast sent out for additional members. Ms. Green did meet with President Balderas and they spoke about ideas. Thank you for letting her speak today.

## **IX. STAFF REPORTS**

### **A. Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs**

#### **1. Academic and Student Affairs Update**

Dr. Guerrero stated the presented the enrollment report (attached) to the Board of Regents. The new numbers to report according to this morning. Head count is 1416 students and compared to previous fall of 1029. We are at a 15% increase in enrollment from last semester. Dr. Guerrero thanked all student services and academic affairs. We

wanted 1,400 students and 14,000 credits. This shows the whole team came together for the last several months. We are looking at 271 Dual Credit Students. Congratulations to Edwina Romero and Josh Lopez. They are doing a wonderful job. There is a lot of energy and excitement and it is a wonderful time at Northern. It makes him happy and proud and we are truly one team. It is one team at Northern and he is excited about that.

Dr. Guerrero presented the HLC Initiatives, Academic Affairs Update and Student Services update (attached).

Board President Martin asked if there were any questions from the Board. The Board of Regents had no question.

## B. Vice President for Finance & Administration

### 1. Certification of Capital Asset Inventory

Ms. Storey presented the Certificate of Capital Assets (attached). We are required annual to submit our capital assets and the listing is included in the packet. The Business Asset inventoried all items included. We did not see any adjustments other than where the asset was located.

Ms. Storey asked for approval of the Certification of Capital Asset Inventory from the Board of Regents.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Certification of Capital Asset Inventory.

**Regent Swentzell moved to approve the Certification of Capital Asset Inventory as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Second – Regent Velarde. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes. Motion passed. Regent Archuleta was not present for this motion.**

### 2. Fiscal Watch Report

Ms. Storey reviewed the Fiscal Watch report (attached).

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Fiscal Watch Report as presented.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve the Fiscal Watch Report. Second – Regent Batista Daus. A roll call vote was taken. Second – Regent Velarde. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

### 3. RPSP

Ms. Storey presented the RPSP requests and reviewed the summary sheets (attached).

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the RPSPs.

**Regent Velarde moved to approve the RPSPs. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Second – Regent Velarde. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

### 4. MOU with Northern New Mexico Normal School Alumni Association

Matt Baca, General Counsel stated Mr. Valdez would like to add to his comments earlier

Mr. Valdez stated he would like to recognize Rebecca Orona Cordova, she is on the board and a past president and she also resides in El Rito. In the spirit of the MOU, he would like to thank everyone, President Balderas for their leadership, Amy Peña, Carolina Alegre, Henry Ocaña, and Shawn Madrid. They are having Homecoming on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Valdez thanked everyone and he sees the Alumni getting closer and closer with the college. Thank you for being part of this campus. They support the College and the College supports the Alumni. Thank you for being part of this campus.

President Balderas stated without the Alumni Association, they are doing amazing things. They are trying to preserve the history so the next generation understands. He would like to recognize them as a strategic partner and we would like to provide them a home on the Espanola Campus.

Regent Swentzell asked, he is all in favor about the MOU, he is concerned about some of the spaces. Are there spaces that is in good condition for them to utilize. The pictures and places of historic nature, he would hate to see those get damaged. Not all the buildings here are in the greatest condition. Is that squared away?

President Balderas stated they are an example; the colleges management is focusing on two critical areas. The first is to respond to the health, safety and emergency needs of the students, the community, faculty and staff. That oftentimes has been volunteer groups, us moving boxes to their request. They have been gracious. They took some initial space in one of our facilities in Espanola, they have been wonderful sports. But on that emergency health and safety phase, they have also helped in generating improvements. Right now, we have our handicap assessment going on right now and our asphalt guys in attendance. We are trying to fix and accommodate them to address those health and safety and asset protection right now. We think that we have Mr. President

and Board Member Swentzell but we are also planning a more permanent home for them. Dr. Guerrero and the Alumni had to negotiate because we had a flood in Espanola. They graciously moved them and they have been good sports so we have actually bounced them around a little bit but they also have been part of our long-term plan. If you look at this facility, we think there will be a community space here very soon as well in the South Dorm. President Balderas invited everyone to see the first renderings that are in the next building for lunch. They are also part of our permanent planning and we think community groups like this need a safe place to store assets, some of these campuses have been pillaged and victims of theft. We are also, as part of phase II aggressively improving the heating and cooling needed for these artifacts.

President Martin asked about the \$150,000 for archive center. Mr. Valdez stated we are working with the college to start using that money. We have a room in Espanola and the goal is to bring it to El Rito. President Balderas asked if Ms. Storey had an update on the dollar amount. Ms. Storey stated the dollar amount was \$150,000 and awarded in October of 2023. It has undergone two budget adjustments. They are working with Eileen and Cecilia to begin expending the funds. The delay was the Budget Adjustment Requests which were approved in 2024. Board President Martin asked how they are adjusting the budgets. Ms. Storey stated the budget was for an archivist. We are realigning that for supplies and stipends for the committees.

Regent Archuleta asked how many alumni they have in the group. Ms. Orona stated there is over 400 but active there is about 20. The mailing list is a little over 400. Regent Archuleta stated the oldest is a 1945 graduate. Regent Archuleta has an uncle close to 90 and he was asking about it. We have a committee and we are going to strive to get all previous students on that wall. This is one of the decisions. Ms. Orona stated that committee, she is on it, they are very concerned the wall is far from being complete and that is their legacy and they feel emotional about getting everyone on that. They are going to start with the graduates who are not represented there. They are going to start a campaign to raise money for this. They are asking for a donation. Bruce Campbell asked if they thought of asking the families of the alumni to donate monies for the plaque. (inaudible)

Mr. Valdez stated homecoming will be September 21<sup>st</sup> beginning at 9:00am and concluding at 5:00PM. Angel Espinoza will be entertaining for the event. There will be a raffle for extra meals and entertainment. They were going to have the reunion every two years but they have lost some students. They lost John Dantis and John Romero. They would like to have this every year. The school closed in 1966.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the MOU.

Regent Archuleta moved to approve the MOU. Second – Regent Swentzell. A roll call vote was taken. Second – Regent Velarde. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XI. VOTE TO REOPEN MEETING** - Certification that only those matters described in the Executive Session Agenda were discussed in the closed session; if necessary, final action with regard to certain matters will be taken in Open Session

None.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.


Regent Batista Daus moved to adjourn. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Second – Regent Velarde. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents adjourned at 10:35AM.

Approved:



Michael A. Martin  
Board President



Erica Velarde  
Vice President