

OCTOBER 2026 **FACULTY** **NEWSLETTER**

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Dean and Interim Chancellor Update

Dr. Laura Musselwhite

WE ARE HALFWAY THROUGH THE SEMESTER ALREADY, AND THE TEMPERATURES ARE REFLECTING IT!

Let's start with some good news. There are only two students in the current ADN, BSN/bridge Nursing cohort who still have to take their NCLEX exam. All of the rest have passed. That means that even if the final two don't pass on their first try (which will not be the case, I would imagine), we will hit our required 80% success rate for this cohort. That will allow us to come off of warning and get back to full approval with no conditions. It has been a long road, but many thanks to the Health Sciences team under the leadership of Morgan Samp. We made it!

On September 17th, a group from UNM-Valencia attended the opening Gala of the UNM Foundation fundraising campaign. Brittany Padilla, Ruth Huning Gonzales, Eileen Davis, Melinda Schwartz, and myself were there with a table for UNM-Valencia. This was a major development for us because there were only three display tables (Innovation Zones) from across the entire university system, and UNM-Valencia was chosen to be the representative for Community Engagement. We created a display based on our Power Pro Lineman program in partnership with PNM. It was a nice opportunity to showcase one of our career technical programs.

Registration for spring term opens on November 2nd. Please announce this to students and encourage them to register in a timely manner to get the courses that they want.



Humanities Update

On Saturday, September 19th Dominique Rodriguez and Anicca Cox

presented the keynote address at the Phi Theta Kappa 2026 New Mexico Regional Leadership Conference. Their address was titled “Understanding Place: History and Community in Collaborative Teaching.” Their talk also included a participatory mapping activity to generate teacher reflection on place and community.

On Saturday, October 17th, Dominique Rodriguez, Jon Sims, Anicca Cox and several UNM Valencia students

conducted this semester’s recording of oral histories with the Tomé Land Grant Community with several of its elders. The process is meant to expose students to the generational community and to learn research methodologies in humanities. This work is a part of our ongoing collaboration with Tomé.

A community member showing students and faculty her mother’s wedding dress from the 1930s, a part of their community museum and archive.



Please join us for UNM-Valencia’s Reading New Mexico Event!

With Laura Paskus, special guest

This event welcomes community members from Valencia County, UNM students, staff and faculty to enjoy an evening of writing—fiction, non-fiction, poetry—music, and refreshments! This year’s theme is “people, place and connection” in our beloved New Mexico, where local writers will share their stories, experiences, and creative imaginings.

Wednesday, November 18th | 5:00-7:00 PM
Tomé Land Grant Community Center
2933 State Highway 47, Tomé, NM 87031.



Leeanna T. Torres

Leeanna T. Torres is a native Nuevomexicana writer, born and raised in the comunidad de Tomé. Her creative non-fiction essays have appeared in various print & online publications, including more recently, A New Mexico Land Ethic Handbook (Rubin, Gulliford, & Torres, 2024, NightHawk Press), and Water Bodies: Love Letters to the Most Abundant Substance on Earth (edited by Laura Paskus, (2024).



Iris Keltz

Iris Keltz is an award-winning journalist and author of two historical memoirs. Scrapbook of a Taos Hippie: Tribal Tales from the Heart of a Cultural Revolution (2000) and Unexpected Bride in the Promised Land: Journeys in Palestine and Israel (2017).



Percy James

Percy James has lived throughout Northern New Mexico most of her life. She works in Valencia and Luna County. She is a multimedia artist primarily creating writing and film and a leader in the Valencia County Literacy Council.



Kaiya 'Kai' Hodge

Kaiya 'Kai' Hodge is a poet, and the secretary of the UNM-Valencia Poetry club.



Liné

Liné is an independent singer/songwriter and a poet who is almost done with their first album. Its central theme is storytelling, and uses a fusion of genres from country, folk, Irish folk, a bit of mariachi, as well as Native American elements. Their goal as an artist is to expand what the music genre can be, musically and lyrically.

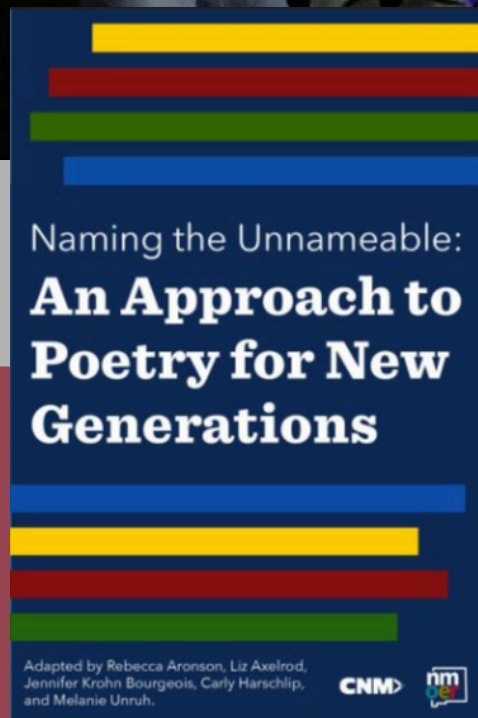


This event is made possible by partnerships with the Tomé Land Grant community, the Valencia County Literacy Council, the UNM-Valencia poetry club and faculty from English, Spanish and Education at UNM-Valencia.



Improv Showcase

The class Patricia Gillikin is currently taking will perform at the Student Showcase on Saturday, October 31, 3 p.m. Admission is \$5.00. This is at The Box Performance Space and Improv Theatre, 2nd and Gold, Albuquerque.



Liz Axelrod, MFA

has had a busy fall season so far! She was honored to receive the CNM Liberal Arts Distinguished Faculty Award in September. Liz has been working with the Creative Writing Committee and is a part of the Perspectives on AI Faculty Learning Circle for FA26. She also worked on updating the CNM Poetry OER Naming the Unnamable: An Approach to Poetry for New Generations, which is now available on the NMOER website. Outside of her pedagogical pursuits, Liz has a poem titled “Washington Square” selected for publication in Hanging Loose Press Issue 120, and her poem “Ice Pick” was published in Three Rooms Press Maintenant Issue #20. Liz will be a featured reader in their Maintenant DADA Reading Series: The Americana’s Part 2 on November 5th. The reading will be live streamed on Facebook and on Zoom. Liz has also fallen madly in love with her feral adopted cat, Morris and is writing lots of poems about his three-year progression from living under a bush on the side of her house to taking over her office.



Bad Mouth Reading

Ana June read her essay entitled “Writ of Habeas Corpus” at the September Bad Mouth Reading Series event on the 19th. The reading, held at Albuquerque’s Q Staff Theatre, also featured poets Johnny Horton and Marie Landau, and musician Mauro Woody.

Justin Bendell and Ana June

co-facilitated a Praxis Circle at this year's Two-Year College Association - Southwest Conference, held in Austin, Texas.

Their presentation ("Anti-Fascist Pedagogy in the Belly of the Beast") addressed how assaults on higher ed have long been a feature of the fascist playbook and discussed Michael Vavrus's Teaching Anti-Fascism: A Critical Multicultural Pedagogy for Civic Engagement as well as the work of cognitive linguist George Lakoff to identify, develop, and deepen their understanding of anti-fascist praxis in community college classrooms.

Also, they ate brisket.

Also also, they kayaked at sunset to watch the bats emerge from under the The Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge.



Join us for a bell hooks Discussion Group

Monday, November 9, 2026

1:00p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

UNM-Valencia Writing Center

If you can't attend in person, we will also be on Zoom. For a digital copy of the reading and/or for the Zoom link, email Patricia Gillikin at gillikin@unm.edu

Únete al grupo de discusión sobre bell hooks

Lunes, Noviembre 9, 2026

1:00p.m. - 2:00p.m.

Centro de Escritura de la UNM-Valencia

Sino puede venir en persona, puede asistir por medio de Zoom. Para una copia digital de la lectura y/o enlace de Zoom, envíe un correo electrónico a Patricia Gillikin, gillikin@unm.edu



In the first week of November, Rebekah will be participating in the UNM Main Campus Research and Discovery Week with her paper entitled “Found Family: Robert Rodriguez and the Spy Kids Franchise.”

Speaker Session: Resilient Communities: Research on Family, Culture, & Connection

📅 Thursday November 5, 2026 12:45pm - 1:45pm MST
📍 Fiesta A/B (SUB Level 3)

Rebekah Rendon
Title: Found Family: Robert Rodriguez and the Spy Kids Franchise
Abstract: The topic of this paper addresses family dynamics in the first Spy Kids film. My argument analyzes Spy Kids as representative of Latino/a family dynamics, found family tropes, and speculative fiction. The film’s main characters follow the path from childhood to young adulthood while showing how individuals are tied inextricably back to their own relations. However, speculative fiction allows the family bonds that exist in this narrative to be imagined alternatively, as not just biological family relations, but as family structures created through connection, friendship, and allyship. Found family tropes allow this narrative to expand beyond the immediate family dynamics and create an environment of friendship that show the way Latino/a family roles can be imagined. Hoping to have projector for quotes and slides.

THREE ROOMS PRESS PRESENTS

2026 VIRTUAL DADA! FESTIVAL

THE AMERICAS+ | PART 2

THURSDAY | NOVEMBER 5TH | 7:30-9:30 PM EST

A Virtual Event of Disruptive and Provocative DADA Poetry & Performance

everything is dada is everything is dada is everything is dada is

VIRTUAL EVENT STREAMING LIVE ON ZOOM & FACEBOOK

PERFORMANCES BY

Maureen Alsop (Nelly Bay, Australia)

Liz Axelrod (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

C. Mehri Bennett (Columbus, Ohio)

John M. Bennett (Columbus, Ohio)

Kerem Durdag (Scarborough, Maine)

Marc Olmsted (Portland, Oregon)

Suzi Kaplan Olmsted (Portland, Oregon)

Anna O'Meara (Seattle, Washington)

Lisa Panepinto (Holden, Maine)

Wes Rickert (Lansdowne, Ontario, Canada)

W. K. Stratton (Round Rock, Texas)

HOSTED BY

Peter Carlaftes + Kat Georges

(co-directors, Three Rooms Press)

maintenant

A Launch Event for

MAINTENANT 20

A Journal of Contemporary DADA Writing and Art

243 Contributors | 34 Countries

threeroomspress.com | facebook.com/groups/threeroomspress | IG: @threeroomspress

UNM-VALENCIA CAMPUS FINE ARTS GALLERIES

Fall 2026 Art Exhibition Schedule



SEPT 4 - OCT 9
tender
Stephanie Lerma
Reception: Sept 17th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm

SEPT 28 - OCT 16
Comanche Highway
Sounding Genizari in Contemporary New Mexico



OCT 19 - NOV 2
Dia de Los Muertos: Ofrendas Colectivas Exhibition
OCT 28
Dia de Los Muertos Celebration presented from Noon-2:00pm

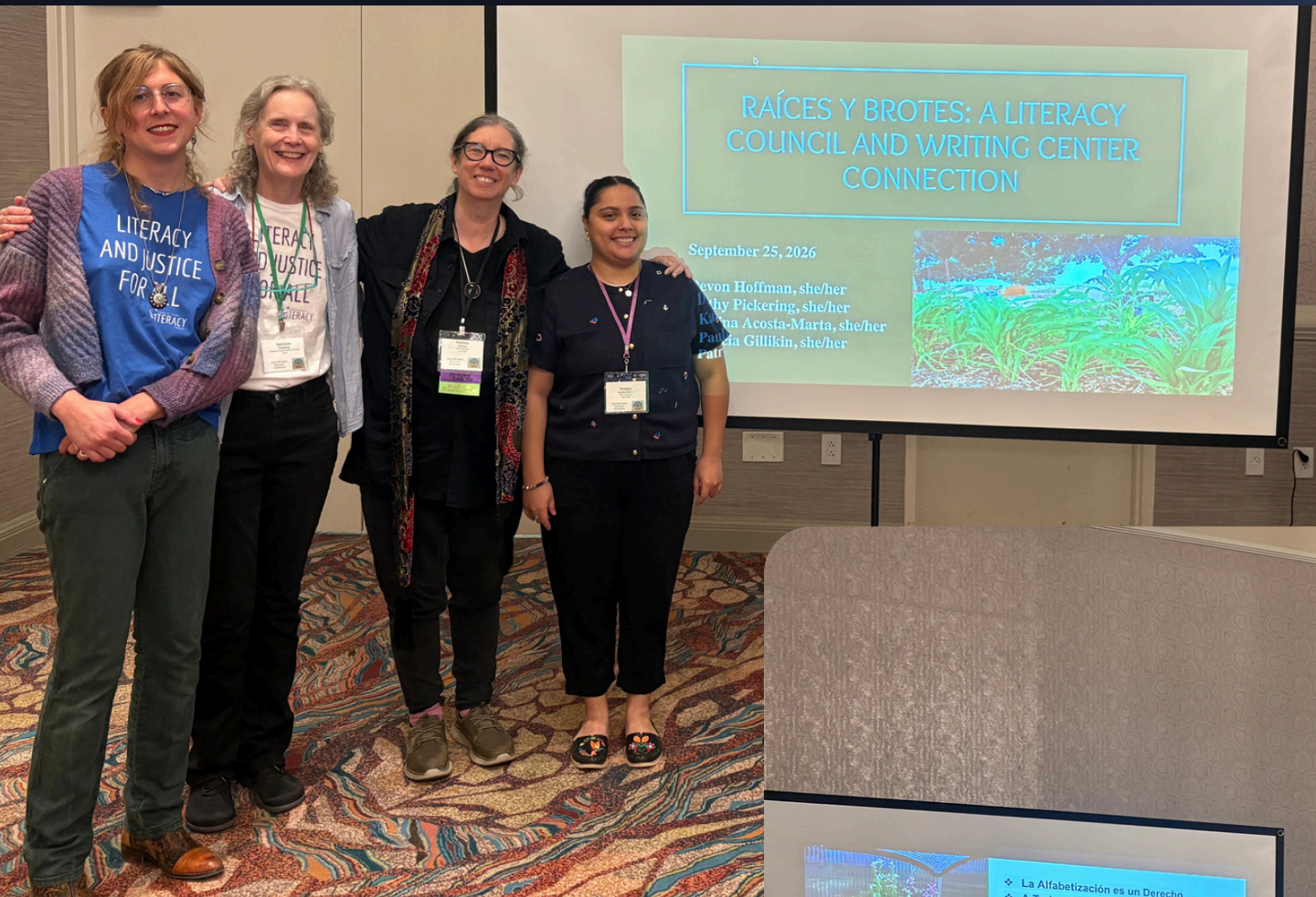
NOV 13 - DEC 12
When Music & Art Come Together
Annual Faculty and Staff Art Exhibition
Reception: Nov. 19th, 4:00pm-6:00pm

For more details and updates about these events, please visit valencia.unm.edu



Tutoring Services Update

Shalaïne Castillo and Patricia Gillikin



NM ADULT EDUCATION CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

On September 25, Devon Hoffman and Kathy Pickering of the Valencia County Literacy Council and Writing Center Consultant Pau Acosta-Marta and Patricia Gilikin presented “Raíces y Brotes: A Literacy Council and Writing Center Connection” at the New Mexico Adult Education Conference in Albuquerque.

UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL WRITING CENTERS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

The same team that presented at the New Mexico Adult Education conference, with the addition of Karen Walter and Cecy Rodriguez of the Valencia County Literacy Council, will also present at the online International Writing Centers Association Conference on October 30, “Vínculos del pueblo para un cambio sistémico: Growing a Community of Praxis between a Literacy Program and a Community College Writing Center.”



Above:
Devon Hoffman, Kathy Pickering, Patricia Gillikin, Pau Acosta-Marta;
Right:
Devon Hoffman, Pau Acosta-Marta, Kathy Pickering, Patricia Gillikin

— CONVERSACIONES EN —
ESPAÑOL E INGLÉS
— DURANTE EL OTOÑO —

Agosto 17 - Noviembre 30

Para practicar en español e inglés, ¡Acompáñanos en el Centro de Escritura de la UNM-Valencia! Nos reunimos los lunes de 12 a 1 durante la sesión de otoño 2026



CONVERSATIONS IN
SPANISH & ENGLISH
THIS FALL

August 17 - November 30

For practice in Spanish and English, join us in the UNM-Valencia Writing Center! We meet on Mondays from 12 to 1 during the Fall 2026 semester.



Late Night
TUTORING

In Pasos Resource Center

September 3 - December 3

OPEN UNTIL

7PM



THURSDAYS

Closed for Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break

Library Update

Barbara Lovato

BANNED BOOKS WEEK 2026

“Let Books Be. Protect the Freedom to Read.” Banned Books Week took place October 4–10, 2026.

Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in libraries, bookstores, and schools. The annual event highlights the value of free and open access to information and brings together the entire book community — librarians, educators, authors, publishers, booksellers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas. (Looking for a welcoming place to hold a class session, club meeting, study group, workshop, or campus event? The UNM-Valencia Campus Library is available for more than studying. We'd love to host you. All are encouraged to request use of library space for activities that bring the UNM community together, support learning, and build community. Scan the QR Code below to Submit a Library Space Request.)

During National Library Week, ALA released the list of the Top 11 Most Challenged Books of 2025 as part of the State of America's Libraries Report. ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom tracked 4,235 unique titles challenged in 2025, only five titles behind the record set in 2023. Nearly 92% of 2025 book challenges were initiated by pressure groups, government officials, and decision makers, and 5,668 titles were banned from libraries (66% of the total challenged), with access to an additional 920 books restricted. This is both the highest number of titles censored in one year and the highest rate of challenges resulting in censorship since OIF began compiling censorship data in 1990. The Valencia Campus Library celebrated Banned Books week with informational displays, activities, emails and social media posts.

<3%

OF BOOK CHALLENGES
IN 2025 ORIGINATED
FROM INDIVIDUAL
PARENTS

Data compiled by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

THE STATE OF
AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA150
American Library Association

Breakdown of 2025 Censorship Incidents

68% Books & Graphic Novels
13% Access
(Library closures, funding, bomb threats)
5% Displays
4% Programs
2% Online Resources/Databases
2% Hate Crimes
(Vandalism, theft of materials representing marginalized groups)
1% First Amendment Audits
1% Films
4% Other

Data compiled by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

THE STATE OF
AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA150
American Library Association

4,235

UNIQUE TITLES
TARGETED FOR
CENSORSHIP
IN 2025

Data compiled by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

THE STATE OF
AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA150
American Library Association

“BAN”

ALA defines a **ban** as the removal of materials from a library based on the objections of a person or group.

A **challenge** is an attempt to have a library resource removed, or access to it restricted, based on the objections of a person or group.

THE STATE OF
AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA150
American Library Association

92%

OF ALL BOOK
CHALLENGES IN 2025
WERE INITIATED BY
PRESSURE GROUPS
AND GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS

Data compiled by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

THE STATE OF
AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA150
American Library Association

713

ATTEMPTS TO
CENSOR LIBRARY
MATERIALS AND
SERVICES IN 2025

Data compiled by ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom

THE STATE OF
AMERICA'S LIBRARIES

ALA150
American Library Association

ASL SOCIALS: TUESDAYS IN THE LIBRARY

Build confidence. Practice ASL. Make connections. ASL Socials meets weekly on Tuesdays from 4:30pm-5:30pm to support language learning through real conversation. Come learn and connect with fellow signers in a friendly, voice-off environment. All signing levels are welcome. We will celebrate International Week of the Deaf and IDSL on Sept 23rd in the library. Save the date to join us for conversation, connection, and community.

POETRY CLUB: TUESDAYS AT NOON

Curious minds wanted to join the Valencia Campus Poetry Club! The club meets every Tuesday at noon in the library for poetry, creativity, and conversation. No writing experience required.

MAKE THE LIBRARY YOUR SPACE

Looking for a welcoming place to hold a class session, club meeting, study group, workshop, or campus event? The UNM-Valencia Campus Library is available for more than studying. We'd love to host you. All are encouraged to request use of library space for activities that bring the UNM community together, support learning, and build community. [Submit a Library Space Request](#)

LIBRARY SERVICES

The Library offers flexible information literacy instruction tailored to your course needs, including:

- In-class or Zoom instruction
- Instructional support for online courses
- Customized Canvas modules
- Assistance identifying readings, resources, and lesson materials
- Tours of Library collections and technologies

Schedule library instruction anytime:

Email [Kat Gullahorn](#) or call 505-925-8993, or [submit an online request](#).



FALL 2026

ASL Socials @ the Library

Tuesdays 4:30 –5:30 pm

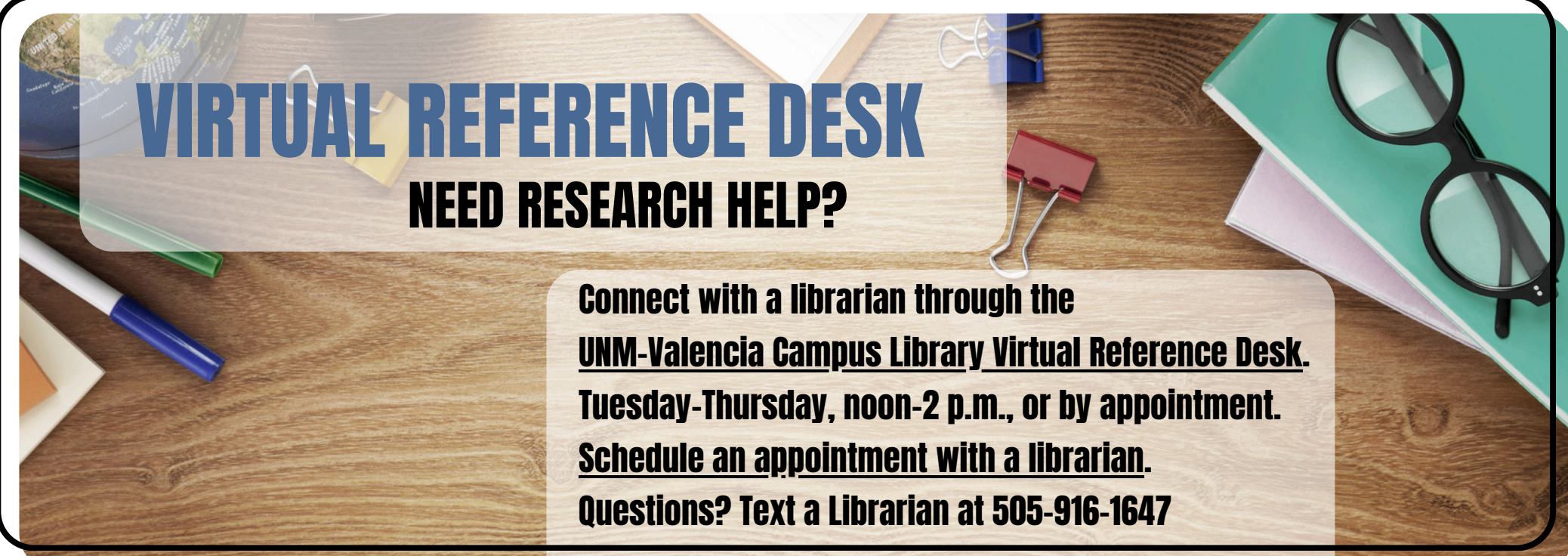
Voice-off Study Group for Intro to Sign Language

A weekly voice-off ASL conversation group for our Intro to Sign Language students and surrounding signing community. Join us at the Library to practice in a safe social setting. All signers are welcome.

Come See & Sign With Us!

<http://valencia.unm.edu/library/>





VIRTUAL REFERENCE DESK

NEED RESEARCH HELP?

Connect with a librarian through the **UNM-Valencia Campus Library Virtual Reference Desk.** Tuesday-Thursday, noon-2 p.m., or by appointment. **Schedule an appointment with a librarian.** Questions? Text a Librarian at 505-916-1647



POETRY CLUB | OPEN MIC NIGHT

The Library hosted the first “Open Mic Night” on Wednesday October 7, 2026. Over 20 people were in attendance to enjoy poetry, stories, music, and refreshments.



COMMUNITY GAME NIGHT: SEPTEMBER 23, 4:00 PM-6:00 PM

Community Game Night returned this semester to the UNM-Valencia Library. The September theme was language and culture. Nearly 20 people attended this event, hosted by the library in collaboration with the Game Design Program. This event was held on the International Day of Sign Languages to celebrate the diversity of languages and communities that enrich our campus.



Faculty Assembly Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/93422900811> (Passcode: Oct26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)
2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)
3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)
4. Interim Chancellor's / Dean of Instruction's Report - Laura Musselwhite (20 min)
5. Treasurer's Report – Kat Gullahorn (1 min)
6. Committee Accomplishments for AY 26-27 (2 min per)
 - Faculty Professional Development Committee
 - Faculty Online Teaching & Review Committee
 - Curriculum Committee
 - Adjunct Faculty Committee
7. Faculty Senate Report (5 min)
8. New Business / Announcements
9. Adjournment



Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/99919954716>(Passcode: Sep26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)

- Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM.

2. Acceptance of Agenda (1 min)

- Motion to accept the agenda made by Ana June.
- Seconded by Joseph Cardenas.
- Agenda approved.

3. Approval of Minutes (1 min)

- Motion to approve previous meeting minutes by Michael Gonzales.
- Seconded by Joseph Cardenas.
- Minutes approved.

4. Interim Chancellor's / Dean of Instruction's Report - Laura Musselwhite (20 min)

Grants and Funding Updates

- UNM Valencia received notification indicating it has likely been awarded a Title III federal grant, pending official confirmation.
- Grant value is approximately \$2.7 million over five years.
- Grant focus areas include:
 - Student support services.
 - Advising and PASOS-related support functions.
 - New staffing positions including:
 - Director.
 - Administrative support position.
 - Two student support positions.
- Grant proposal includes funding for a Teaching and Learning Center staff position.
 - Position will focus on faculty professional development.
 - Responsibilities will include instructional design and teaching support.
 - AI instruction and evolving AI practices in education are specifically included in the grant objectives.
- Grant implementation is expected to begin quickly, with a target start date of October 1.

Workforce and Advanced Energy Initiative

- UNM Valencia received approximately \$250,000 from New Mexico's quantum and advanced energy funding initiative.
- Funding will support development of a Mechanical Technician Program.
- Program was developed in collaboration with Pacific Fusion.



- Curriculum will prepare students for advanced energy and related industries through training in:
 - Mechatronics.
 - Electrical systems.
 - Welding.
 - Entry-level technician competencies.
- Equipment purchases will be the primary use of the funding.
- Program will be housed at the Workforce Training Center.

Academic Planning

- Department chairs are currently developing the Spring schedule.
- Faculty were encouraged to work closely with chairs on course planning and scheduling.
- Initial spring schedule draft deadline noted as approximately September 25.

Chancellor Search Updates

- No official update available on the Chancellor search.
- Multiple leadership searches are occurring simultaneously:
 - Chancellor positions at Gallup, Valencia, and Los Alamos.
 - Vice President for Research position at Main Campus.
 - Dean of Libraries position at Main Campus.
- Administration will share updates as information becomes available.

5. Treasurer's Report – Kat Gullahorn (1 min)

Budget Status

- Faculty Assembly account was replenished to \$600 at the beginning of the academic year.
- After purchasing breakfast burritos for the meeting, the balance is approximately \$500.

Petty Cash Discussion

- Executive Committee discussed an existing \$70 cash envelope that has been passed down through previous administrations.
- Possible options discussed:
 - Spend the funds on faculty activities.
 - Deposit the money into official accounts.
 - Donate funds toward scholarships.
 - Purchase holiday decorations.
- Faculty suggestions favored:
 - Using the funds for cafeteria food.
 - Including gluten-free food options.
- Treasurer requested additional ideas from faculty via email before a final decision is made.



6. Faculty Grant Applications -- Brittany Padilla (10 min)

Institutional Grants Overview

- Institutional grants are external awards whose funds are distributed through UNM rather than directly to individual faculty.
- Grants that identify UNM Valencia as a subrecipient also qualify as institutional grants.

Grant Submission Process

- All institutional grants must be routed through the UNM Office of Sponsored Projects.
- Faculty should begin planning early because submissions must be reviewed before the sponsor deadline.
- Sponsored Projects typically requires grant materials 2–5 days in advance of final submission.

Required Proposal Components

- Grant solicitation/application documentation.
- Project narrative.
- UNM budget forms.
- Budget narrative explaining expenditures.

Submission Systems

- Faculty may need to utilize:
 - Sponsor-specific portals (e.g., NSF, Grants.gov).
 - UNM's internal system, Streamline.

Post-Award Process

- Sponsored Projects manages:
 - Award acceptance.
 - Negotiation of agreements.
 - Creation of grant indexes.
- Grant index creation can take up to a month and must occur before purchasing or hiring activities begin.

Faculty Support

- Brittany emphasized her willingness to assist faculty at all stages of grant development and submission.
- She noted an increase in faculty-led grant activity compared to previous years, when most proposals focused on student services.

Discussion

- Karen Walter asked about combining similar grants.
- Brittany explained that grants generally remain project-specific but may support related activities when objectives and populations overlap, citing summer camp initiatives supported by both Meta and PNM.

7. Standing Committee *Introductions (1 min per)*

- Adjunct Faculty

Chair: Karen Walter.

- Monthly meetings scheduled for the first Friday of each month via Zoom.
- Committee priorities:
 - Increasing communication with adjunct faculty.
 - Improving participation and engagement.



- SharePoint repository established to:
 - Centralize adjunct resources.
 - House welcome materials.
 - Provide key deadlines and support resources.
- Welcome template being developed for division chairs to customize.
- Ongoing discussion regarding compensation for adjunct service work.

- Curriculum & Assessment

- First committee meeting is being scheduled.
- Polls have been distributed for meeting planning.

- Faculty Senate Representatives

- Report provided by Andy Taylor.
- Faculty Senate leadership introduced priorities and governance initiatives.
- Main Campus leadership expressed interest in visiting branch campuses.
- Study on branch-campus student success found that Valencia students show strong outcomes in bachelor's, graduate, and professional programs.
- Andy agreed to request and share the study results.
- Branch Campus College Council discussed inequities in laboratory science workload compensation across campuses.
- UNM Valencia was highlighted as a positive model for lab workload calculations.

- Communications

- Report provided by Ana June.
- New newsletter submission process has improved efficiency.
- Faculty were thanked for following the updated protocol.
- Committee plans to meet and discuss future communication needs.

- Faculty Handbook

- No report presented.

- Online Teaching & Review

- Report provided by Cindi Goodman.
- Committee recently held its first meeting.
- Plans to conduct three online course reviews during the semester.



- o Committee is developing accessibility support workshops.
- o Drop-in assistance sessions will be offered for faculty needing help with accessibility compliance.

- Professional Development

- o Report provided by Precious Andrew.
- o Professional Development budget increased to \$35,000.
- o Funding allocations:
 - 1. Full-time faculty: \$1,650
 - 2. Adjunct faculty: \$500
- o Approximately \$19,000 already committed.
- o Faculty encouraged to submit requests early.
- o Recommendation made for faculty to purchase airfare themselves and seek reimbursement to avoid price increases caused by procurement delays.

- EIRG

- o Report provided by Joshua Frank Cardenas.
- o Committee is developing internal and external professional development opportunities related to equity and inclusion. Exploring creation of an Equity Resource Center as a centralized support location on campus.
- o Upcoming diversity and cultural programming includes:
 - o Hispanic Heritage Month events.
 - o Ofrenda Building activities (October).
 - o Día de Los Muertos celebrations.
 - o LGBTQ+ History Month events.
 - o Native American Heritage Month activities.
 - o Community Game Nights.
 - o Literacy and cultural engagement activities.
- o Faculty were encouraged to share ideas for diversity-related professional development.

Potential New Standing Committee

- Executive Committee is discussing whether the STEM/Undergraduate Research Committee should become a formal standing committee.
- Rationale:
 - o Significant campus contributions.
 - o Coordination of major STEM events.
 - o Management of undergraduate research activities.
- Feedback from faculty is being requested before any formal action.

8. New Business / Announcements

Visual Learning and Assessment Conference

- Julia So reminded faculty about the upcoming conference scheduled for Thursday and Friday.



Dual Credit / Concurrent Enrollment Concerns

- Faculty reported challenges with high school students who:
 - o Lack NetIDs.
 - o Experience technology restrictions on school-issued devices.
 - o Appear on rosters late or not at all.
 - o Face scheduling conflicts.
- Discussion emphasized the need for stronger communication and orientation processes for concurrent enrollment students.
- Faculty shared concerns regarding the significant time required to resolve enrollment and technology issues.

Union Update

- Justin Bendell introduced himself as the UA-UNM representative.
- Two Valencia stewards are currently serving:
 - o Anicca Cox.
 - o Nicole Reyna.

Additional stewards are being recruited, especially adjunct faculty.

Faculty were encouraged to participate in a statewide campaign focused on healthcare premium affordability and attend an upcoming virtual town hall.

Laura Musselwhite announced that Michael Carriere has been selected as the permanent head of the Next Steps Adult Education Program following a competitive search process.

Library and Community Events

- Kat Gullahorn announced:
 - o Community Game Night events.
 - o Deaf Culture and Awareness Month activities.
 - o Displays on Deaf history and culture.
 - o Open Mic Night scheduled for October 7.
 - o Ongoing efforts to bring poets and creative arts programming to campus.

STEM Outreach Event

- Piotr announced the "Exploring the Possibilities in Valencia County" event scheduled for October 23.
- Event will:
 - o Serve middle school students.
 - o Highlight STEM opportunities.
 - o Include workshops and presentations.
- Faculty volunteers and presenters are being sought.

Faculty Assembly President Remarks

- Piotr thanked faculty members for their participation and support.
- Encouraged faculty to provide feedback throughout his term as Faculty Assembly President.

9. Adjournment

Adjourned: 1:05



In Attendance:

Laura Musselwhite
Kat Gullahorn
Andy Taylor
Jonathan Sims
Stephen Takach
Patricia Gillikin
Julia So
Michael Carriere
Annica Cox
Victoria McFail

Cindi Goodman
Ana June
Debra Venable
Michael Gonzales
Frances Duran
Karen Walter
Barbara Lovato
Justin Bendall
Kimberly Morrissey
Hamim Md Adal

Piotr Filipczak
Elisa DiMenna
Precious Andrew
Dominique Rodriquez
Joshua Frank Cardenas
Ian Burch
Ben Flicker
Brittany Padilla
Sarah Heyward
Nicole Reyna