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Interim Chancellor and Dean's Update



Dr. Laura Musselwhite

I want to start by acknowledging what a challenging month it has been. It has been tumultuous for many and likely exhausting for everyone. As I mentioned in my email last week, my goal is to bring consistency and stability to campus. My foremost concern is our people - faculty, staff, and students. When challenging times come, the way we regroup as a community matters. Although every community has issues, coming back together through our common goal of serving students should be a guiding star. They have always been our focus, and they need our support every day.

The faculty at UNM-Valencia represent the best that we have to offer - we are a group of scholars and educators dedicated to the community college mission. I have worked with each of you, whether it be for just one year or for twelve years, and I know that you all have a passion for our access mission. You would not be here if you did not. It is that bond that brings us together as a cohort - we recognize and celebrate each other's talents and contributions to the work. I see each of you as leaders in your field, and I respect you greatly. I also respect your differences because those differences enrich the student experience.

As we move forward, UNM-Valencia will grow and thrive. The second half of spring semester brings a time of joy as we observe ceremonies to mark student achievement, such as Honors Night and graduation. These occasions spotlight the successes of the students. They are on a journey, and faculty are an integral part of that journey. Students look to us for guidance and encouragement, which we are honored to provide. That is a very worthwhile and meaningful legacy, and that is what UNM-Valencia is all about.

I appreciate your support, because we are in this as a team, where the whole is strengthened by individual input and effort. I am proud to be serving in the interim role. I will work diligently to make UNM-Valencia the best it can be and to recognize and uphold our community as we forge a new pathway into the future.



Message From the Faculty Assembly President

Dr. Andisheh Dadashi


Dear Colleagues,

As we head into Spring Break, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued dedication to our students and to one another. Whether this newsletter reaches you just before or just after the break, I hope you find time to rest, reset, and return with renewed energy for the second half of the semester.

I also want to encourage everyone to join us for our next Faculty Assembly meeting on March 25th. Your participation and perspective are essential as we continue strengthening communication, collaboration, and shared governance across campus.

Wishing you a safe and restorative Spring Break. As always, the Faculty Executive Committee is here to support you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

With appreciation,
Dr. Andisheh Dadashi
Faculty Assembly President
vfacpresident@unm.edu



I am honored to be the recipient of the 2025-2026 UNM Teaching Excellence Award for Open Communication and Assessment, which recognizes exemplary instructional communication practices and meaningful assessment strategies that positively impact student learning.

This is my second year in a row receiving a UNM Teaching Excellence Award, following the 2024-2025 UNM Teaching Excellence Award (Branch Campus Teacher of the Year), which recognizes outstanding teaching, student engagement, and a commitment to educational equity.



Anzaldúa Discussion Group

Patricia Gillikin

Join us for a Gloria Anzaldúa Discussion Group on Thursday, April 16, 2026, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the UNM-Valencia's Writing Center. We are reading an excerpt from Gloria Anzaldúa's "Movimientos de rebeldia y las culturas que traicionan." If you can't attend in person, we will also be on Zoom. For a digital copy of the reading and/or the Zoom, email Patricia Gillikin at gillikin@unm.edu.

Únete al grupo de discusión sobre Gloria Anzaldúa, Jueves, 16 de Abril 2026, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. en el Centro de Escritura de la UNM Valencia. Estamos leyendo "Movimientos de rebeldia y las culturas que traicionan" por Gloria Anzaldúa. Si no puede venir en persona, se puede asistir en Zoom. Envía un email a Patricia Gillikin, gillikin@unm.edu, para recibir la lectura y/o el enlace de Zoom.

This discussion group is hosted by Karen Walter, Dominique Rodriguez, Patricia Gillikin, and the Writing Center Consultants.



Join us for a Gloria Anzaldúa Discussion Group

Thursday, April 16, 2026
12:30 - 1:30 PM
UNM-Valencia Writing Center

We are reading an excerpt from Gloria Anzaldúa's
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"Gloria Anzaldua. Oakland, CA, 1888" by Robert Girard is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0



Student Conference at UNM- Albuquerque

Patricia Gillikin

Many UNM-Valencia Writing Consultants attended the 2026 Student Conference organized by CTL on March 6, 2026. Consultant Leah Chavez presented work done with her undergraduate research mentor Anicca Cox: "The Impact of Transfer from 2-Year to 4-Year Campuses."



At the end of Leah Chavez's presentation:
Stephanie Romero, Anicca Cox, Valeria Acosta-Marta, Leah Chavez, Patricia Gillikin, Gracie Gannon, Anthony McQueen, Jimena Mendiola



Garden Update

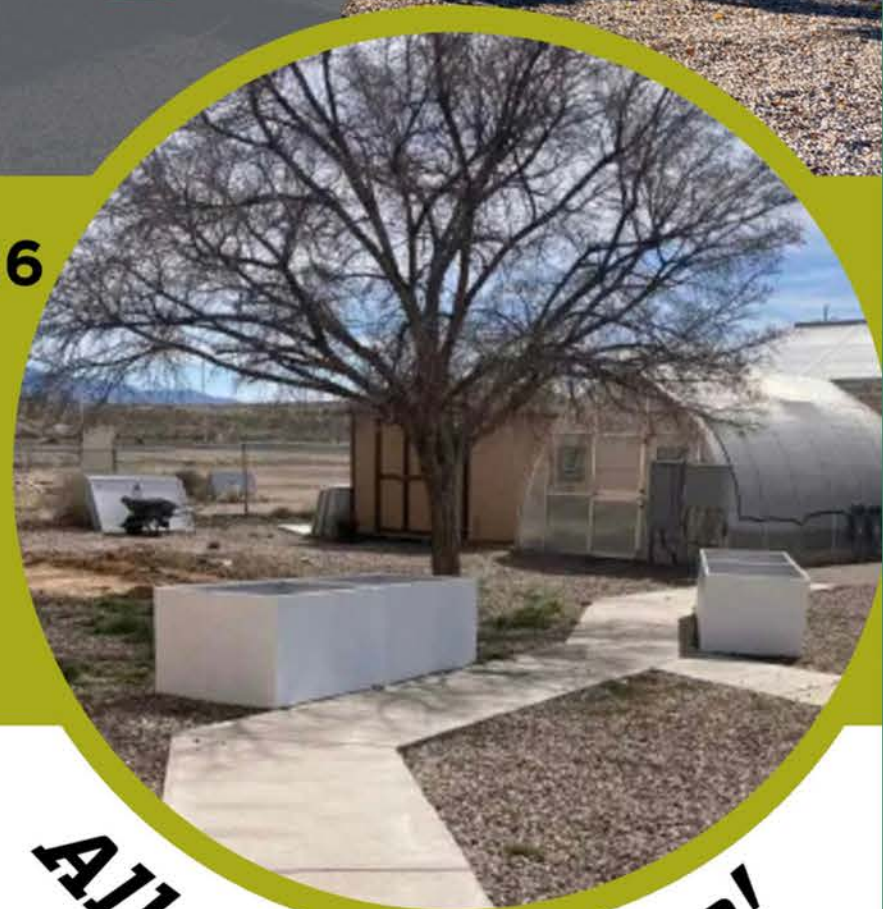
*By Patricia Gillikin on behalf of Rosa Sisneros-Jimenez, Ben Flicker,
Wesley Badertscher, and Karen Walter*

The next Garden Meeting will be Friday, March 27 at 10 a.m. in the garden, which is just southwest of the SCC where the greenhouses are.

The next Work Party will be Saturday, April 4, 9 to 12.



You're invited to the next
**COMMUNITY
GARDEN
MEETING**



All are welcome!

Friday, March 27, 2026
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
UNM-Valencia
Greenhouse Area
(located behind the SCC)



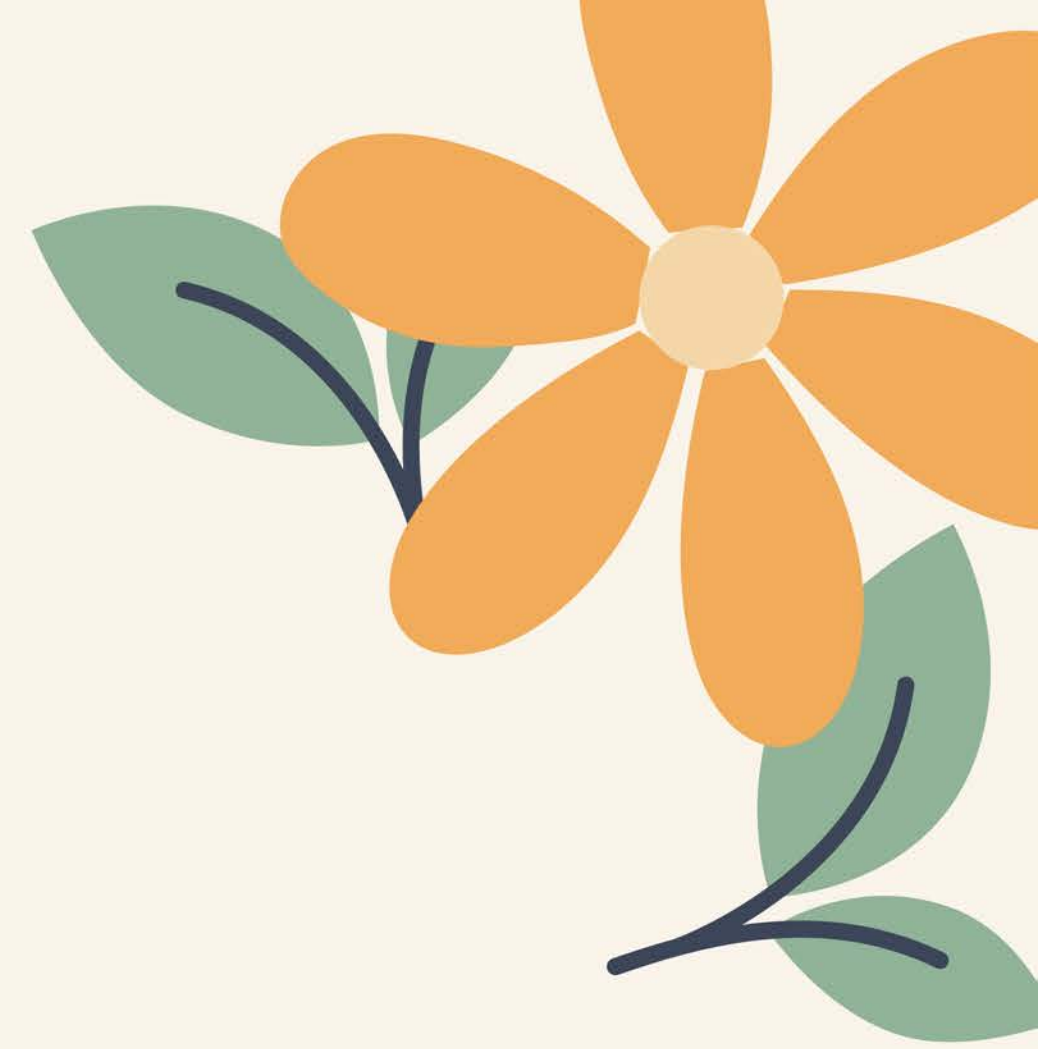
Garden Curricular Committee

Ben Flicker and Patricia Gillikin

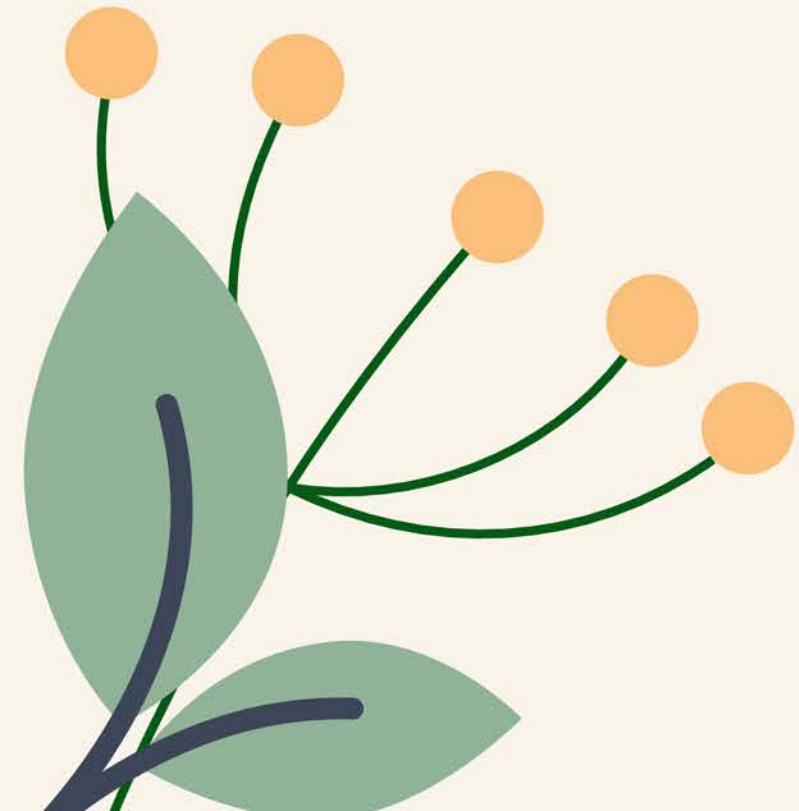
A faculty committee has been meeting, last semester and this, to explore ways we can connect curriculum and pedagogy to the campus garden. There's interest in building curriculum in set of interrelated courses with some common theme or element related to the garden. To learn more and join this conversation, email Patricia, gillikin@unm.edu, for the link to the next Curricular Garden meeting at 2 p.m. on Friday, March 27.



Improv Showcase



Patricia Gillikin took two improv classes from The Box in Albuquerque January through February, Improv 2: Love & Authenticity, and Advanced Improv: Long Form 2. She participated in Showcase performances for both classes.



Library Updates

Kat Gullahorn and Barbara Lovato

Library Hours Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm



After removal of the short glass block wall between our security gates, the library acquired a new glass display case. It is currently featuring art created by current and former library faculty and staff.

Libraries Support Teaching and Learning
The Library is your portal to resources, collections, services, and librarians. [Check It Out!](#)

We are easy to connect with no matter where you are
Drop in to the [Virtual Reference Desk](#) < your Librarians are just a click away.

Dial in by phone +1 346 248 7799 (US) Meeting ID: 527 080 943

Call the desk: 505-925-8990

Email: unmvclib@unm.edu (or contact any of us directly)

Text a Librarian: 505-916-1647

[See ALL the services available for faculty](#)

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The Library participated in the annual UNM Valencia Caree & Wellness Expo. Visitors to the booth received information about library resources available to all of Valencia County residents and picked a “blind date with a book” of their choice to take home.

National Library Week events

Monday, April 20: [Right to Read Day](#), a day for readers, advocates, and library lovers to take action to protect, defend, and celebrate the right to read. The American Library Association (ALA) kicks off National Library Week with the release of its [State of America's Libraries Report](#), including the list of Top Ten Most Challenged Books of 2025.

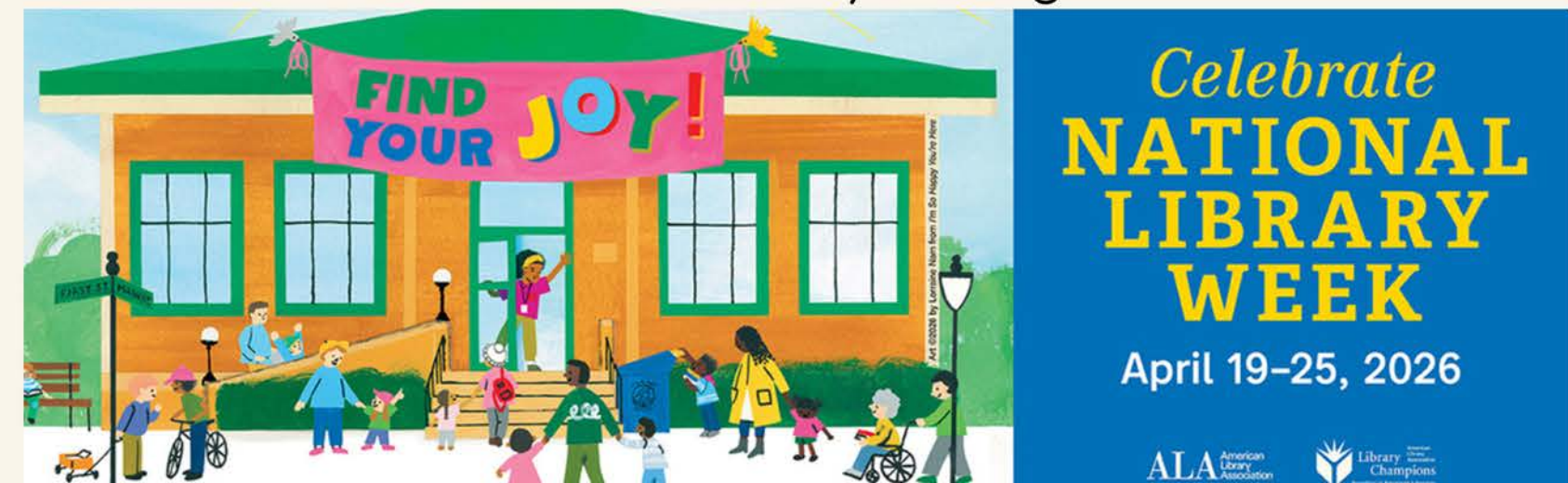
Tuesday, April 21: [National Library Workers Day](#), a day for library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

Wednesday, April 22: [National Library Outreach Day](#) (formerly National Bookmobile Day), a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

Thursday, April 23: Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

About National Library Week

Check our website and social media for more information about events in the library throughout the week.





The Library continues to provide space for the very successful Junior Lobos program.

Open Education Week (OE Week) took place from March 2–6, as a global celebration effort dedicated to advancing open education and promoting equitable access to knowledge.

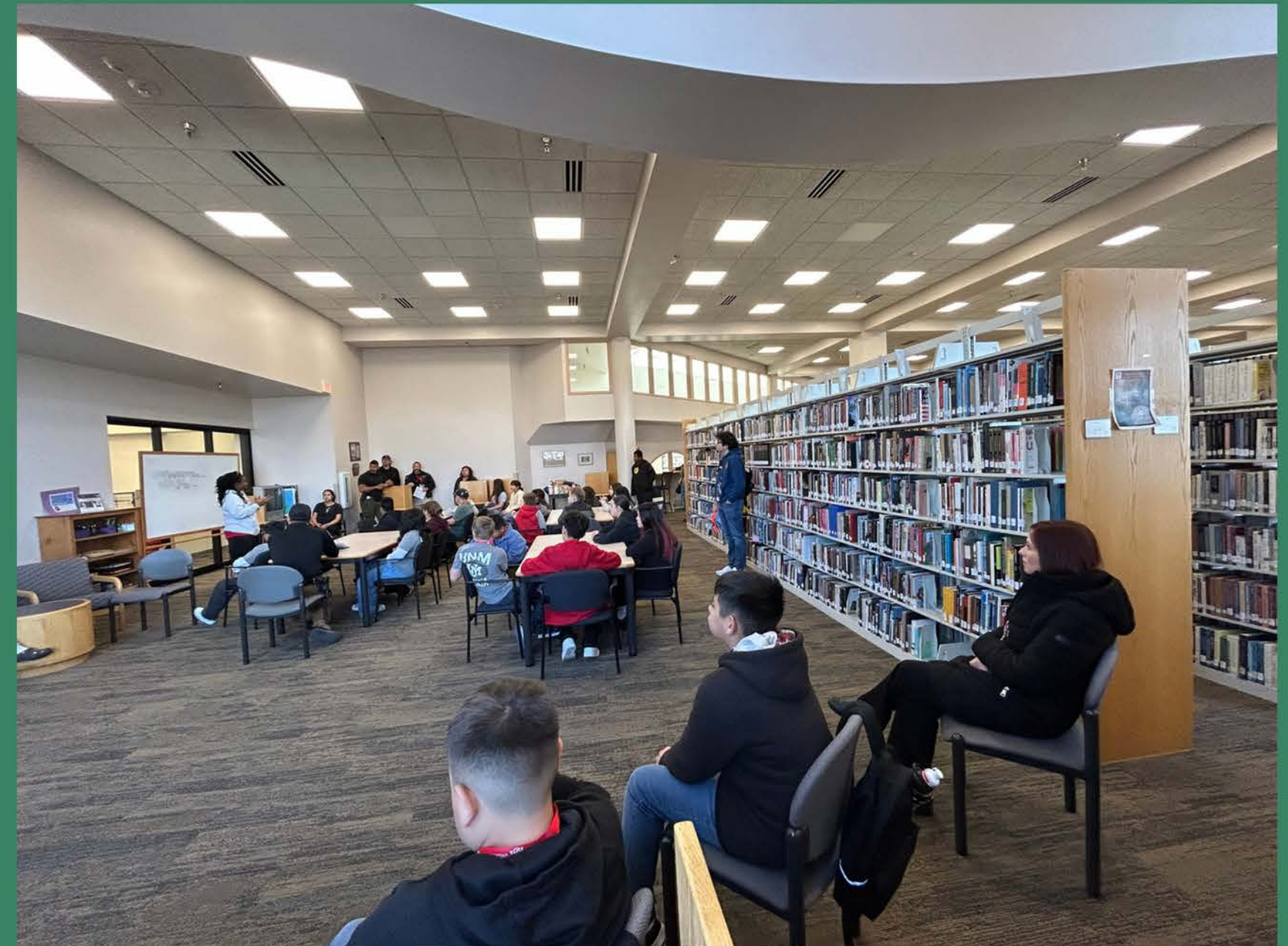
This annual event provides an opportunity for educators, students, and advocates worldwide to engage in discussions, workshops, and activities that highlight the latest achievements in open education.

UNM Albuquerque had an exciting lineup of insightful and engaging events in 2026. Faculty, students, and community members were encouraged to join and explore the benefits of Open Educational Resources (OER) and innovative learning practices. Valencia Campus Library hosted three watch parties of virtual and hybrid events.

These events showcased the impact of open education in breaking down barriers to learning, fostering collaboration, and creating more inclusive educational environments.

More information about each event can be found at

oer.unm.edu.



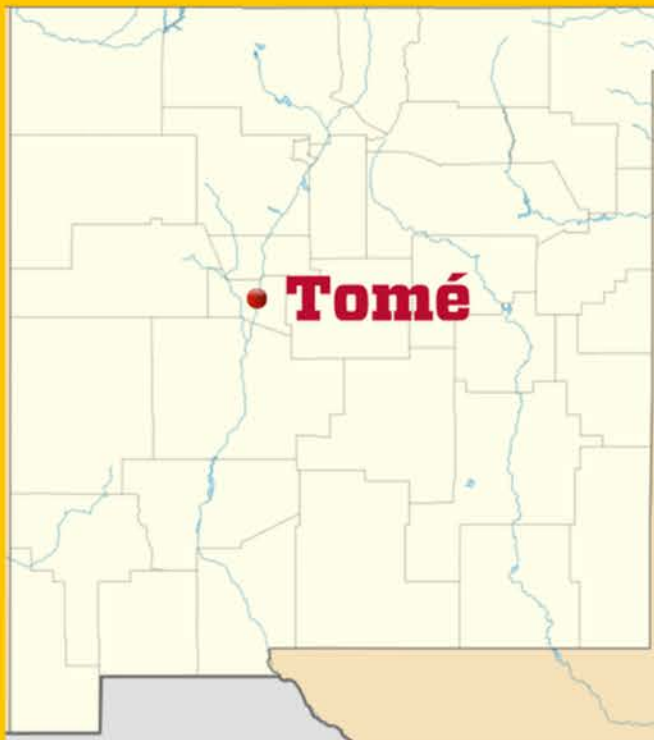


The Library has ongoing chess and checkers matches happening throughout the day. If you have time between classes, stop by and make a move! We also have two community puzzles in progress. Take a few minutes to unwind and add a piece or more. We'd love your help bringing them to completion.



**Plática with Elders from
Tomé Land Grant:
Workshop in preparation for
oral history interviews**

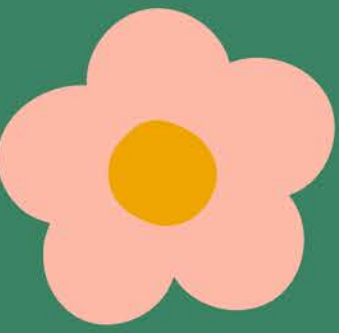
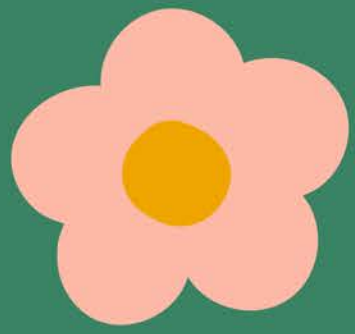
March 28th 9am-1pm
At Tomé Land Grant



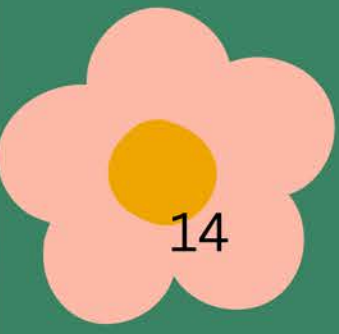
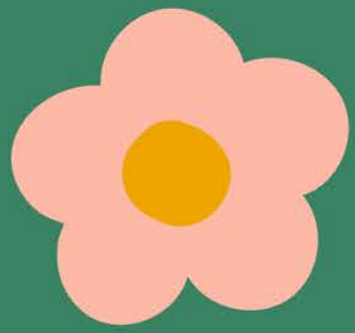
**Service Learning Workshop at
Tomé Land Grant:
Revising Digital Cuentos in
community**

April 25th 9am-1pm
At Tomé Land Grant





Professors Anicca Cox and Dominique Rodriguez are building community-based curriculum for writing and Spanish courses in partnership with Tomé Land Grant. For the second in-service session, students explored land grants archives and artifacts at the UNM Center for Southwest Research and the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology. Students will be returning to Tomé Land Grant at the end of March to work with community members in preparation to conduct oral histories on local land grant activism. Please reach out to Dominique or Anicca if you are interested in collaborating.





Movimientos de Resistencia y Existencia Indígena

con Juan Trujillo Limones: Antropólogo y periodista



martes 14 de abril a las 10:30
UNM Valencia -
Arts and Sciences #106





Dominique Rodríguez: I was excited and honored to be recognized with the 2025-2026 UNM Teaching Excellence Award for Cultivating Community. This award acknowledges educators who intentionally build supportive, welcoming, and collaborative learning environments where all students feel valued and connected. Through the consideration process, I was invited to reflect on my practices to cultivate trust, respect, and a sense of belonging. I am so grateful to be on a campus where community-based learning pedagogies are supported and thriving.

In collaboration with Patricia Gillikin and the Writing Center tutors, our Spanish and English conversation group is in full swing! Join us every Tuesday from 12-1pm in the writing center. We are excited to begin working with the garden curricular team to explore plants with cultural and medicinal importance to Spanish-speaking cultures.



Faculty Assembly Meeting Draft Agenda
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/97526594300> (Passcode: Mar26)
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 and Dean of Instruction Report – Dr. Laura Musselwhite (30 min)
5. Treasurer’s Report – Dr. Piotr Filipczak (1 min)
6. Committee Accomplishments for AY 25-26 (3 min per committee)
 - Adjunct Faculty Committee
 - EIRG
7. Faculty Senate Report (5 min)
8. Faculty Security and Safety on Campus – Dr. Andisheh Dadashi (5 min)
9. New Business / Announcements
10. Adjournment



Faculty Assembly Meeting Draft Agenda
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 (12:00 – 1:15 PM)
Zoom Meeting URL: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/96311052245>(Passcode: Feb26)
In-person Meeting in H101

1. Call to Order (1 min)

- The meeting was called to order at **12:03 PM** by Andisheh Dadashi

2. Acceptance of Agenda(1min)

A motion was made to approve the agenda.

- • **Moved:** Ian Burch

Seconded: Julia So
Motion carried.

3.

Approval of Minutes(1min)

A motion was made to approve the previous meeting's minutes.

4. **Moved:** Michael Gonzales

5. **Seconded:** Julia So
Motion carried.

6. Chancellor's Report—Dr. Sam Dosumu (10 min)

Dr. Dosumu addressed faculty concerns regarding budget, staffing, and enrollment.

- Confirmed that **faculty positions are not being eliminated** and that all current vacancies will be filled within the current fiscal year.
- Emphasized that **student-facing positions** remain a funding priority.
- Noted that **staff positions** are reviewed individually as vacancies arise.
- Explained that budget decisions are made collaboratively with academic and financial leadership.
Reported that enrollment has declined overall since 2015, with a temporary increase during COVID due to online offerings.
- Noted a recent decline in Albuquerque-based enrollment (approximately 200 students), while Valencia County first-time degree-seeking enrollment has increased modestly.

- Explained that institutional funding is driven primarily by **student credit hours**, not headcount.
- Clarified that dual-credit enrollment is high but generates limited tuition revenue.
- Stated that the campus must continue evaluating programs with low completion rates and consider new programs aligned with regional workforce needs.
Committed to transparency and ongoing communication.
- Faculty expressed appreciation for the Chancellor's clarifications. A request was made for a separate forum to review enrollment and budget data in more detail. Dr. Dosumu agreed to schedule a future session

7. Dean of Instruction's Report – Dr. Laura Musselwhite (10 min)

Dr. Musselwhite reported the following:

- Fall-to-fall retention rates have improved significantly:
 - o Fall 2022–23: 59%
 - o Fall 2023–24: 69%
 - o Fall 2024–25: 79%
- Announced the upcoming **All-Campus Academy**, focused on digital accessibility and online teaching.

8. Treasurer's Report – Piotr Filipczak (1 min)

- Faculty/Staff Committee Fund balance: **\$370.71**
- Snack Fund balance: **\$78.85**
- Recent expenditures included food purchases for faculty events.

9. Committee Accomplishments for AY 25-26 (3 min per)

- Faculty Professional Development Committee
 - Most annual funds have been allocated.
 - Approximately **\$1,000** remains.
 - No second funding round will be offered.
 - Faculty were encouraged to submit requests promptly.



- Faculty Online Teaching & Review Committee
 - Committee continues to meet monthly.
 - Preparing for the All-Campus Academy workshop.
 - Full course reviews will begin in Spring.
 - Ongoing focus on digital accessibility.
- Curriculum Committee
 - The Board of Regents approved the following programs:
 - Plumbing
 - Electrical
 - HVAC
 - An AI Certificate remains in development.
 - Program reviews are planned for Spring.

10. Faculty Senate Report (5 min)

- Approved an export control policy.
- Passed a joint resolution opposing Compacts of Academic Excellence.
- Approved a new undergraduate certificate in Hispanic Traditional Healing.
- Participated in breakout sessions addressing equity, faculty communication lists, and online course certification.

11. Call for Senate Candidate nominations and vote (15 min)

With no prior nominations submitted, John Sims was nominated from the floor.

- **Vote Results:**
 - Yes: 21
 - No: 0
 - Abstentions: 0

John Sims was elected as Faculty Senate representative.



12. Pedagogical Partnership Program – Julia So (10 min)

Dr. So presented an overview of the Pedagogical Partnership Program.

- Valencia is the only community college in New Mexico participating in the national Science Collaborative.
- The program pairs faculty with student partners to enhance classroom engagement and inclusivity. Faculty and students participate in workshops, classroom observations, and structured feedback sessions. Faculty and student participants reported positive impacts on teaching practices, student confidence, and professional development. Plans were announced to expand the program in the next academic year.
- Materials and QR codes will be shared campus-wide.
- [Pedagogical Partners Presentation](#)

13. Student Safety on Campus – Veronica Salcido, Armando Bustamante, Lt. Bryan Killinger (15 min)

Presenters: Veronica Salcido, Armando Bustamante, Lt. Bryan Killinger, Rich Sedillo

- Clarified procedures related to immigration enforcement on campus.
- Faculty and staff are not obligated to engage with federal immigration agents.
- Campus police must be contacted for any such encounters.
- Classrooms and offices are considered private spaces requiring judicial warrants for entry.
- Announced the establishment of a **multidisciplinary Care Team** to support students in distress. Faculty were encouraged to submit Care Reports and exercise flexibility when students experience personal or family-related stressors.

14. New Business / Announcements

- **Pi Day and Wellness Fair:** March 10
- **Game Night in the Library:** March 4, 3:00 PM



- **Cross-Campus Branch Faculty Town Hall:** April 3, 1:00–2:30 PM
 - Volunteers requested to facilitate breakout sessions.
- A new **Faculty Checklist** has been developed and will be posted on the Faculty Resources webpage.

15. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was approved.
The meeting adjourned at **1:17 PM**.

Attendance:

Sam Dosumu	Laura Musselwhite
Andisheh Dadashi	Piotr Filipczak
Cindi Goodman	Kat Gullahorn
Ana June	Clifton Murray
Justin Bendell	Hamim Md Adal
Andy Taylor	Barbara Lovato
Scott Kamen	Patricia Gillikin
Precious Andrew	Karen Walter
Jonathan Sims	IanBurch
Michael Gonzales	Joshua Frank Cardenas
Dominique Rodriguez	BenFlicker
Susan Yassenka	Mindy Schwarz
Frances Duran	Julia So
Anicca Cox	Sarah Heyward
Jerry Godbout	Armando Bustamante
Gaby Peterson	Bryan Killinger
Rich Sedillo	Veronica Salcido
EstherGrace Cordova	Eden Ortega