

ADVANCING THE UNIVERSITY FOR NEW MEXICO



President Garnett S. Stokes' Statewide Listening Tour



WHAT WE [LEARN] CHANGES THE WORLD.

EXPLORING NEW MEXICO



BY THE NUMBERS



3 Indian Reservations



From the dunes of White Sands to the forests of Las Vegas, The Land of Enchantment has an unparalleled beauty. More importantly, New Mexico has diverse and passionate communities. This listening tour has given me a deeper understanding of this state and its people, which will guide UNM's vision for future success.

— Garnett S. Stokes, President

Statewide Tour Highlights

Beginning in May of 2018, President Stokes embarked on a 19-day listening and learning tour throughout the State of New Mexico. She sought insights and a better understanding of the needs of the state.

These excerpts highlight some of the experiences shared in President Stokes' Statewide Listening Tour blog. To read her full blog recaps of each trip visit president.unm.edu.

LOS ALAMOS — MAY 16

My visit included meeting with leadership from the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) where we discussed current alliances and the exciting possibility of additional opportunities. I was also able to tour the New Mexico Consortium, a fantastic research facility created by UNM, NMSU and NM Tech. The day wrapped up with a terrific reception for the community where I learned how important our branch campus is to them and the pride they take in it.

GRANTS, GALLUP, ZUNI — MAY 21-22

Navajo Nation Tribal Headquarters President Russell Begaye and members of his cabinet, many of whom are UNM alums, shared their aspirations for furthering UNM's partnerships with the Nation in service to our students, specifically in the areas of nursing, mechanical engineering and law. Much of the conversation centered on how we move our students past their two and even four-year degrees, and how we can better meet the needs of their communities.

TAOS, ESPAÑOLA — MAY 29-30

I arrived at the historic Taos Pueblo for a meeting with the Pueblo's administration. I am grateful for their time and insight on the needs and strengths of their community and its youngest members. I met with local elected officials and Santa Clara, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Ohkay Owingeh, Nambe, Tesuque & Picuris leadership. This was an invaluable stop as I listened and learned about this part of the state and the insights of those who joined us.

VALENCIA BRANCH CAMPUS — JUNE 7

A tour of the Valencia campus introduced me to its impressive Wellness Center, brand new greenhouse for agricultural studies, state-of-the-art nursing program facility, fledgling undergraduate research lab, small business development center that has assisted a notable number of businesses in Valencia county, and a tight-knit team of staff and faculty. After visiting each of the UNM branches, I have found that each campus has a tremendous opportunity to serve its community in a distinctive way. One of the common themes I heard during each branch campus visit was their pride in being part of The University of New Mexico.

ALBUQUERQUE: KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE — JUNE 18

Among many topics, I discussed the thriving relationship between UNM and the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) with heads of directorates for valuable work on laser systems, and optics and lasers for space observation. This summer the AFRL has 166 interns, 27 of which are from UNM. The AFRL Tech Engagement Office does extensive work with several areas on-campus, including STEM outreach, internships through various departments and shared facilities.

Statewide Tour Highlights

CLOVIS, PORTALES, HOBBS, ARTESIA, CARLSBAD, ROSWELL, RUIDOSO, ALAMOGORDO — JUNE 19-22

I was energized by the conversation in the room, and the ability to discuss with these leaders how to better bring higher education to rural towns in New Mexico, and how to create more collaborative use of facilities and resources. In a meeting arranged by the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, we discussed a myriad of topics and enjoyed an open discourse on how to make higher learning appealing to students graduating high school, who often consider going directly into the workforce instead of pursuing their education. Overall, it was an insightful conversation, which I'm optimistic will lead to some necessary change.

LAS CRUCES, DEMING, SILVER CITY — JULY 24-26

At NMSU, we discussed our shared concerns on the need for our colleges of education to address the K-12 crisis as well as community access to healthcare and considered how our institutions can work more collaboratively together on both. My next stop was Deming, where Professor Tim Castillo helped organize a discussion with city leaders from both Deming and Silver City. Professor Castillo is working with these leaders on the Finding Rural Program. Initiatives such as this are important to helping our rural communities develop and thrive economically.

SANTA FE — AUGUST 1

The city's vibrancy was evident during my first stop at Meow Wolf, where two of our alumni gave me a tour of the House of Eternal Return, as well as Caterpillar (Meow Wolf's fabrication lab). Fine Arts Alumnus Conor Peterson is the General Manager of Technology and fellow alumnus Chris Clavio heads up IT and Infrastructure—both gave me a unique perspective of how impactful our students are once they leave UNM's campus and join our communities.

LAS VEGAS, WAGON MOUND, RATON, TUCUMCARI, SANTA ROSA — AUGUST 8-9

While touring northern New Mexico, I explored New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), the Miners' Colfax Medical Center, and the North American Wind Research Training Center, among other landmarks. NMHU President Sam Minner, Jr. and I discussed opportunities to create and further collaborative efforts to improve education and train students in northern NM for careers, including those aspiring to be medical students.

RIO RANCHO — AUGUST 14

In a visit to UNM West, some of the faculty and staff touched on the topic of the continued 'brain drain' happening throughout the state, and the statewide need for economic development that can sustain opportunities for our young adults. We need to work collectively to develop a more emboldening and sustainable environment for our youth to enter after their studies—to feel passionate and driven by their careers and their desires to serve our communities.

AZTEC, CHACO CANYON, FARMINGTON — AUGUST 15-16

The trip to northwest New Mexico was special for several reasons. It was the only trip where I visited high school students, and was also able to stand in the oldest room in North America at Chaco Canyon—thanks to the research of several distinguished UNM faculty. It was invigorating sitting in the Aztec High School library, surrounded by sophomores, juniors and seniors who are looking at expanding their horizons through higher learning.



Statewide Tour Common Themes Heard

EXPANSION OF HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE

A common theme heard across the state involved the need to expand the healthcare and teaching workforce in New Mexico. UNM is focusing on these important needs in numerous ways through the Health Sciences Center, College of Education, and other colleges and departments. UNM is also collaborating with institutions such as the JF Maddox Foundation to broaden our reach and impact to rural and underserved communities across the areas of education, clinical service, research and health policy.

INCREASE ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT AND PRIDE

Alumni outreach is critical to any university's long-term prosperity. They are not only potential donors, but are also a reflection of the education and experience that the University provides. In a state as large as New Mexico, alumni also serve as important recruitment avenues. UNM will focus on increasing alumni engagement around the state.

EXPAND TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

New Mexico is home to 23 Indian tribes, which represent over 10% of the state's population. During the Summer 2018 Statewide Tour, President Stokes visited three Indian reservations and several tribal communities. She also met with dozens of tribal officials regarding impacts and needs facing indigenous populations in New Mexico. UNM is dedicated to increased engagement with Indian tribes within the state.

ENHANCE BRANCH CAMPUS CURRICULUM

Each branch campus faces unique opportunities, challenges, and academic needs. UNM Gallup branch campus student population is approximately 85% Native American, and the community has expressed the need for practical and applicable skills for students. Community members and students at the Taos, Los Alamos and Valencia campuses have expressed similar needs due to serving diverse and somewhat remote populations with their own specific demographics. UNM is committed to collaborative work across the entire system to facilitate each branch meeting these local needs.

CREATE AND SUPPORT MEANINGFUL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Internships are invaluable experiences for students and organizations. They provide specialized skills and training for students along with contacts and connections within the community. They also offer an opportunity for businesses to play a role in developing the workforce they need. Several businesses and stakeholders across the state raised the possibility of internship opportunities with UNM.

Faculty Research & Collaborations Around the State

A:SHIWI COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS CENTER, ZUNI PUEBLO

Marjori Krebs, associate professor of elementary education, accompanied President Stokes on her visit to A:shiwi College & Career Readiness Center in the Zuni Pueblo. Here they discussed the challenges of the community and how to provide education and more opportunities to students.

SANTA FE OPERA, SANTA FE

Kathleen Clawson from UNM department of theater and dance provided a wonderful backstage tour of the Santa Fe Opera for President Stokes, giving a behind-the-scenes look at the performers' point of view of the open-air stage.

HERO, HOBBS

Dr. Art Kaufman, distinguished professor of family and community medicine, and President Stokes met with many people around the state about the Health Extension Rural Offices (HERO) program that brings healthcare to rural areas of New Mexico.

CARLSBAD CAVERNS, CARLSBAD

Diana Northup, associate professor of biology and expert on Carlsbad Caverns, gave President Stokes a fantastic tour of the caves and information about her research on the bats that inhabit it.

GRANT COUNTY ARCHITECTURAL COLLABORATIONS: THE FINDING RURAL/PLATA STUDIO PROGRAM, DEMING

Professor Tim Castillo at the School of Architecture and Planning met with President Stokes and city leaders from Deming and Silver City about their work in the area. The School of Architecture and Planning is currently working with Grant County and Silver City along with Western New Mexico University and Woodbury University on The Finding Rural/Plata Studio program.

GILA NATIONAL FOREST, SILVER CITY

Professor of Biology and Curator of Mammals Joseph A. Cook guided President Stokes on a short hike in the Gila Wilderness, the first federally designated wilderness area, while discussing his extensive work at UNM.

VERY LARGE ARRAY, MAGDALENA

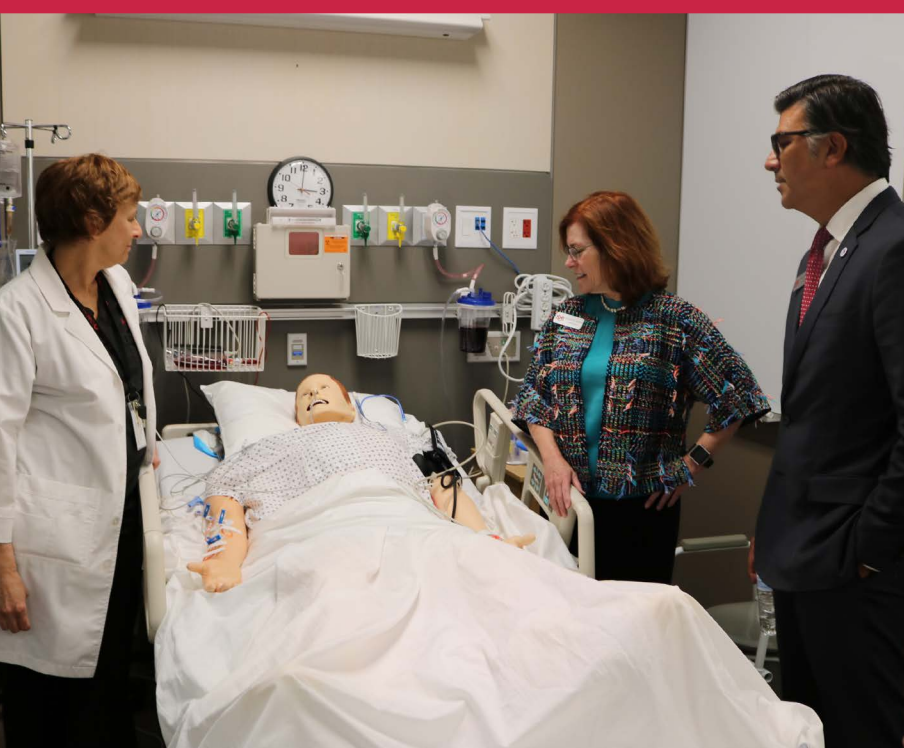
UNM Historian of Science and Technology Dr. Luis Campos briefed President Stokes about the Very Large Array in the Socorro area. The VLA is used worldwide by astronomers to study radio astronomy.

CHACO CANYON

Dr. Patricia Crown and Dr. Chip Wills, Leslie Spier Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Director of Chaco Canyon Archaeological Research Lab, respectively, gave President Stokes, Dr. Les Field, and three UNM students a tour of Chaco Canyon. Chaco is home to pueblo architecture amongst a beautiful landscape.

UNM COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

Dr. Cheryl Willman, Director and CEO of the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center, and President Stokes met with Cowboys 4 Cancer (C4CR) in Las Cruces, who are dedicated to raising money to support ongoing cancer research projects at UNM and NMSU.





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