

*The Morrill Act of 1862 established a Land Grant University
in each state where The Leading Object
would be instruction in agriculture and related fields*



NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics

Vol. 14, No. 1, January 2000

The Dean's Perspective

Three state cabinet members and the land commissioner addressed our faculty and staff at our All-College Conference. Yet another state cabinet officer was honored as a "Friend of Extension" during the conference week. It was a testimony to our important role in creating solutions for New Mexico that all of these important people were willing to take time to be with us.

Looking back on 1999, it's clear that we were increasingly being looked to for help by our state government. Even while we believe we can deliver results to the people of New Mexico better than any other agency or organization, we fear the possibility that we may get to the point where we do more things, less well.

So the conference was a time to not only entertain the opportunities to serve New Mexico, but also to assess our greatest strengths and to assure that the directions we set are directions we can support within our mission and our administrative structure. Every program opportunity and grant dollar carries with it tremendous responsibility to deliver on the promise of our work.



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State leaders address college

Major objectives of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics strategic plan were addressed by three state cabinet members and the land commissioner before a large All-College Conference crowd at the Las Cruces Hilton on Jan. 5.

Alex Valdez, New Mexico secretary of health, addressed quality of life issues for New Mexico, saying that the state is challenged by poverty, teen pregnancy and single-parent families. Valdez said there should be public support for abstinence before marriage, even while family planning is promoted.

He noted that half of the state's births are to single mothers over the age of 18, and there is a great need for prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy. The state ranks 50th in prenatal care and, not coincidentally, 48th in the proportion of the population without health insurance.

Valdez cited the need to work in both the public and private sectors to solve the insurance problem. He said abuse of both legal and illegal substances was the number-one health threat to New Mexico. It is a great burden on the health care system, accounting for a high proportion of uncompensated care.

The secretary answered questions regarding diabetes, hunger and rural hospital care and noted that he would like to see an increase in home visits to families who volunteer to receive help from home economists. His mother, he said, did such work in the 1960s.

John Garcia, secretary of economic development, addressed the economic and community development goal of the strategic plan, noting that New Mexico has the slowest job growth rate in the

country and is among the highest in unemployment.

He cited a strategy to address the problem, including aspiring to be a technology state, developing infrastructure and having workforce development and capital investment plans. He said it is important to be a business-friendly state and to provide incentives. "Do incentives work? Yes, they do," he said.

Training teachers to use technology and supporting technology in the schools are important parts of his plan, as is making all parts of New Mexico digitally accessible. Garcia said a digital upgrade of the state microwave system would make the state 90 percent accessible for advanced telecommunications.

Frank DuBois, New Mexico secretary of agriculture, addressed the agricultural profitability goal by offering a statistical profile of New Mexico agriculture. He noted that New Mexico is remarkably stable in terms of the number of farms in production. Three major forces will shape the future of agriculture — the importance of world trade, increased environmental regulation and federal policy, he said.

DuBois said New Mexican exports to Mexico are greatly underestimated because products often go through other states before entering Mexico and therefore are not counted. But he is sure exports are important to the future. Increased affluence of foreign markets will drive demand, he said.

He said the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act have potential for opening the door to
(continued on page 2)

(State Leaders continued)

greater controls over agricultural production. Government agencies are ceding ground to environmental interest groups at the expense of producers, he said. DuBois said the 1996 Farm Bill, which led to a situation in which 40 percent of nationwide farm income came through emergency and other government payments, probably won't change much.

Ray Powell Jr., New Mexico land commissioner, addressed the environmental and natural resource management goal. Powell cited a quote he had memorized as a guiding principle: "Man's control over nature is really man's control over other men using nature as the instrument."

"We only protect and preserve what we experience," Powell said. He challenged the college to educate people about the secrets of their surroundings, so they can understand whole systems and be able to tell the difference between trivial and major problems.

States that take good care of their environments have the best economies, he said, adding that it is counterproductive to pit one group against another.

"You're healers and bridge builders," he told the crowd of college faculty and staff.

**Need to meet
with the dean?**

**No appointments
necessary
on Fridays, 3-5 p.m.***

*Occasionally the dean is called away, but time is blocked for drop-ins.

Regents' Report

A several-fold increase in insurance premium rates from the State Office of Risk Management prompted NMSU's Board of Regents to seek changes in state statutes requiring NMSU to be insured through the state office, except for employee medical insurance.

Regent Larry Sheffield said the state insurer was bankrupted by medical malpractice claims against the University of New Mexico's Medical School, after the office failed to get reinsurance for the school's high-risk activities. The board also approved solicitation of insurance quotations to show how much more cheaply NMSU could be insured.

In addition, the NMSU financial report for the period ending June 30, 1999 was presented and approved. The instruction and general budget has ample cash reserves, and Regent Adelmo Archuleta said NMSU enjoyed a robust review by the external auditor. Archuleta asked for an analysis regarding shortfalls in funding, resulting in a change of policy in lottery scholarships or other contingencies to set an appropriate reserve target.

Regent James Manatt cited a need to find private funds to reduce the Athletic Department deficit, as the payback schedule of \$300,000 per year toward the deficit from the department was like getting blood from a stone.

Sheffield cited the need to restore gender equity funds vetoed by the governor, and Archuleta said the Athletic Department can stand tall for the results they are getting with the funds available.

The board also unanimously approved a motion to name the soon-to-be refurbished YMCA Building

on Espina Street the William B. Conroy Honors Center. The designation required a suspension of the board's rule that disallows the naming of facilities after current employees.

The structure was designed by Henry Trost, the architect for the university's early structures. The 1908 structure will be home to the NMSU Honors Program after renovation of 6,000 square feet of interior space. The building will include three seminar rooms, a student commons and a galley kitchen. The first floor will be renovated in its original period style.

The board OK'd the renovation plans and the \$1.8 million budget, which included \$800,000 in gifts, bonds, infrastructure monies and interest income.

In other action, the board approved pursuing legislative funding for three proposed capital projects presented by the Athletic Department: \$319,000 to renovate the football field house roof, \$905,000 to expand the University Golf Course Club House and \$1.6 million for a sports medicine and academic facility.

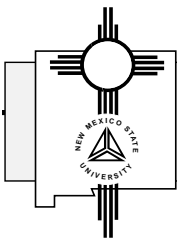
A presentation on a pilot program in which students put interviews on CD-ROM for potential employers was made by Jeanne Gleason, Cynda Clary and Barbara Chamberlin of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. Gleason outlined costs for developing a campus-wide service.

Archuleta said he would like to see the pilot expanded to campus-wide use and that his company would be glad to receive such interview CD-ROMs. Manatt said he would like to see the idea licensed commercially.

Deans' Coffee Time

Wednesdays, 8:30-9:15 a.m. GTH Foyer





Road to Santa Fe

Widely varying proposals for university compensation increases will go before the legislature when it opens its 2000 session on Jan. 18. The Council of University Presidents proposed 6-percent increases for both faculty and staff—a proposal endorsed by NMSU's Board of Regents.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) proposed a 4.25-percent increase for both faculty and staff, and Gov. Gary Johnson called for a 2.5-percent hike across the board. The Legislative Finance Committee, however, proposed a 4.25-percent hike for teaching faculty and a 2-percent increase for all others.

In the case of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics,

only the instruction and general portion of faculty salaries would increase 4.25 percent. A similar distinction between teaching and nonteaching salaries last year resulted in a \$100,000 shortfall in funding for increases in the college.

In other news, the governor endorsed \$100,000 in new funding for NMSU's initiative to add Extension and Experiment Station capabilities to Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management.

CHE endorsed \$180,000 in funding for the same project. The initiative calls for \$338,000 and will be introduced by Rep. Mary Helen Garcia.

Green honored by Epsilon Sigma Phi

Janet Green, New Mexico's secretary of tourism, was given the Friend of Extension Award during All-College Conference by Epsilon Sigma Phi, an honorary Extension fraternity.

Green, former director of NMSU's Rural Economic Development Through Tourism Project, earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from NMSU.

In January 1995, Green left the REDTT post to become deputy secretary of tourism. She has six years of experience in business management and public accounting. She also worked as an executive assistant in the governor's office from 1987–1990.

Green was instrumental in founding and organizing the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy in 1987.

Honors Night events scheduled

Honors Night functions are scheduled to start at 7 p.m. College faculty are welcome.

Date	Counties	City	Location
Feb. 15	Luna	Deming	Knights of Columbus Hall
Feb. 17	Doña Ana/Sierra	Las Cruces	NMSU Corbett Center ballrooms
Feb. 23	Otero/Lincoln	Alamogordo	Tays Center or Alamogordo High School
Feb. 24	Socorro	Socorro	Socorro High School cafeteria
March 1	Lea	Hobbs	Hobbs Country Club
March 2	Eddy	Carlsbad	NMSU Carlsbad Branch all-purpose room
March 6	Chaves	Roswell	Sally Port Inn
March 7	Eddy	Artesia	Artesia Country Club
March 21	Harding/Union	Clayton	Clayton High School
March 22	San Miguel/Mora	Las Vegas	PNM building
March 23	Curry/DeBaca/Roosevelt	Clovis	Clovis High School lecture hall
March 29	El Paso	El Paso	Airport Hilton
March 30	El Paso	El Paso	Airport Hilton
April 6	Grant/Catron/Hidalgo	Silver City	Silver High School gymnasium
April 10	Santa Fe/Los Alamos	Santa Fe	Sweeney Auditorium
April 11	Bernalillo/Valencia/Sandoval/Cibola/Torrance	Albuquerque	Albuquerque Convention Center
April 12	Bernalillo/Valencia/Sandoval/Cibola/Torrance	Albuquerque	Albuquerque Convention Center
April 13	McKinley	Gallup	Civic Center at Red Rock State Park
April 19	San Juan	Farmington	Farmington Civic Center
April 25	Colfax	Raton	Raton High School cafeteria
April 26	Quay/Guadalupe	Tucumcari	Tucumcari High School cafeteria

The Leading Object is dedicated to encouraging communication among all areas of NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

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Jerry G. Schickedanz, Interim Dean and Chief Administrative Officer

Grants

Academic Programs

- Lindsey, D.L., "Fabian Garcia Multicultural Scholars Program," \$100,000, Sep 1999, U.S. Department of Agriculture—Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service—Higher Education Program.
- Whitfield, D., "Higher Education Programs Project Directors' Conference," \$20,000, Sep 1999, USDA—CSREES—Higher Education Program.
- ## Agricultural Communications
- Gleason, B.J., "Smokey Bear Touch Screen Update," \$1,315, Aug 1999, State of New Mexico—Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.
- Gleason, B.J., "A Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Multimedia Components," \$19,800, Oct 1999, USDA—Foreign Agriculture Service.
- Gleason, B.J., "Trilingual Games and Interactive Activities for Fight BAC! Outreach to Hard-to-Reach Audiences," \$100,000, Nov 1999, USDA—CSREES—Food Safety and Quality.
- ## Agricultural Economics
- Gorman, W.D., "Economic Analysis of the Potential for Imports From Mexico of Live Cattle to U.S. Port of Entry," \$18,500, Sep 1999, USDA—Economic Research Service.
- Ward, F.A., "Evaluation of Alternative Computer Models for Allocation of Rainbow Trout (Phase II)," \$33,000, Oct 1999, State of New Mexico—Department of Game and Fish.
- ## Agricultural Experiment Station
- "Southwestern Pecan Research," \$187,120, Oct 1999, USDA—Agricultural Research Service.

"Rangeland Ecosystems, N.M. (Formerly Broom Snakeweed Research)," \$248,625, Nov 1999, USDA—CSREES.

Agricultural Science Center at Artesia

Flynn, R.P. and A. Ghassemi, "New Mexico Organic Waste Utilization," \$93,560, Aug 1999, USDA—CSREES.

Agricultural Science Center at Clovis

Baker, R.D., "Cotton Insect Study," \$1,500, Oct 1999, South Texas Ag Research.

Agricultural Science Center at Farmington

Arnold, R.N., "Small Grant—Pest Control Management," \$1,000, Sep 1999, Zeneca Ag. Products.

Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas

English, L.M., "Los Lunas Plant Materials Center—FY99," \$2,000, Oct 1999, USDA—Natural Resources Conservation Service.

English, L.M., "Los Lunas Plant Materials Center—FY2000," \$225,000, Oct 1999, USDA—NRCS.

Agronomy and Horticulture

Bosland, P.W., "Prevention of Soilborne Disease in Irrigated Agriculture," \$118,821, Sep 1999, USDA—CSREES.

Bristol, A.L., "Analysis of Drinking Water Samples," \$358,066, Oct 1999, State of New Mexico—Environmental Department.

Cantrell, R.G., "Cotton Breeding and Ginning to Enhance Quality and Spinnability of Acala 1517 Cottons," \$146,250, Sep 1999, USDA—ARS.

Cramer, C.S., "Development of Improved Onion Varieties in New Mexico," \$30,000, Nov 1999, New Mexico Dry Onion Commission.

Flynn, R.P., I. Ray, T.L. Jones, and J.D. Libbin, "Water Conservation Through Drip Irrigated Alfalfa Cropping Systems," \$24,552, Nov 1999, USDA—CSREES through the University of Arizona, International Arid Lands Consortium.

Gopalan, C.S., "Biochemical Identification of Hydrolytic Enzymes From Nematicidal Fungi," \$25,000, Oct 1999, Akkadix Corp.

Gopalan, C.S., "Engineering Alfalfa for Increased Growth/Protein Content Via Increased Glutamine Synthetase Activity," \$43,000, Oct 1999, University of California—Directed Research and Development through Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico Universities Collaborative Research).

O'Connell, M.A. and G. Phillips, "Cataloguing Genes Associated with Drought or Disease Resistances in Crop Plants," \$140,340, Sep 1999, USDA—CSREES.

Picchioni, G.A., "Preharvest Calcium Nutrition and its Potential to Extend the Vase Life of Cut Bluebonnet Flowers—Mechanism of Action at the Cell Membrane Level," \$13,000, Sep 1999, The Fred C. Gloeckner Foundation Inc.

Wall, M.M., "Development of Low Pungency Onions for New Mexico," \$16,000, Nov 1999, New Mexico Dry Onion Commission.

Animal and Range Science

Holochek, J., "Monitoring Range Ecological Condition and Trend Studies in the Northern Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands," \$5,000, Oct 1999, U.S. Department of the Interior—Bureau of Land Management.

Grants to be continued in the February issue.