



Lunch with the Director Begins

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Shirley Mitchell, interim PPD director, announced last week that one of her goals over the next several months is to engage and get to know the PPD staff. Each week, 10 staff members will be randomly selected and invited to lunch. Emails and hard copy invitations will be sent to each person, and RSVPs are requested.

“It’s important to me to get to know our staff because we do some amazing work in this department, and each of us contributes to our success,” said Mitchell. “PPD won the APPA Award for Excellence in 2014 because of all the great work each of us do as individuals and as a team. I think it’s important that all of us remember that!”

This week, was the first official “Lunch with the Director.” Nine staff members attended and had a chance to casually visit with other PPD staff that they might not have met before or had an opportunity to talk to.

Mitchell said, “I may not remember everyone’s name after I meet with all the staff, but I will remember something about each person! Thanks to everyone that participated in the first lunch. It was a great way to start these get-togethers.”



PPD staff from across the department joined Shirley Mitchell for lunch. Credit: Athena Salazar



Lunch included sandwiches, chips, drinks, and cookies. Credit: Athena Salazar

2016 Performance Reviews due to HR by Friday, February 17th

Don’t forget, the 2016 performance reviews are due to PPD Human Resources by 5:00 pm Friday, February 17th. It is important to meet this deadline to ensure that all PPD performance reviews are submitted to UNM Human Resources by the deadline.

If you have questions, please contact Karen Hobbs at 277-3353 or email to Karenhobbs@unm.edu, or Teresa Natera at 277-7894 or email to Tena8060@unm.edu.

Smith Plaza User Survey

UNM's Smith Plaza is about to undergo a major facelift and UNM's Planning, Design, & Construction (PDC) wants to hear from you! PDC is looking to hear what you like or don't like about the current Plaza by filling out the survey:

<http://baseline.campuslabs.com/unm/smithplazaunionsquare> or commenting on the UNM Facebook page using #SmithPlaza.



Project Details:

Smith Plaza and Union Square, the heart of the University of New Mexico campus, is a 3.3-acre space. The renovation includes Smith Plaza south of Zimmerman Library, Union Square north of the SUB, and the stair transition connecting the spaces. With a budget of \$3 million obtained through institutional bonds, the aim is to create a "great room" that will invigorate the Plaza for our students, faculty, staff and

community, and promote UNM as a destination university.

Our goal is to promote a balance of social and academic activities and provide flexibility to allow for small and large diverse groups to gather to encourage student engagement and connectivity at UNM.

For inquiries, please contact Amber Straquadine at ambers@unm.edu. Please submit your feedback by midnight of **Tuesday, February 28th**. Thank you for taking the time to assist with this planning!

Kudos

Good morning,

Happy New Year! I would like to report a good job done last year by your repair department, thank you. In addition, I would like to recognize Mr. Johnny Torres for an excellent job he did.

I work in an old house on Sigma Chi Rd. (Main Campus; bldg. 185) and we have had plumbing problems for many months. Your repair crews came out several times and worked on these problems. They were nice and tried hard. Their efforts resulted in some improvements but one bathroom in particular kept having the same problem, causing loss of water and distractions due to being very loud and increasingly running when it was not being used. This kept going for a time, despite good-faith efforts to fix it. And then, a gentleman by the name of Johnny Torres came by for the first time and diagnosed the problem correctly. He and his colleagues went with his plan, worked on it together, and the problem was finally fixed!

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PPD unveils annual Outstanding Manager Award

The Physical Plant Department (PPD) has announced the annual Outstanding Manager Award which was developed to appreciate and recognize the qualities of excellence, leadership, and customer service in the departmental managers. Nominations will be accepted until March 31, 2017. Anyone at The University of New Mexico can nominate a PPD manager for this award. Nomination forms can be found on the home page of the PPD website: ppd.unm.edu.

Posters written in English and Spanish will be distributed soon for each PPD area, and will include the nomination forms.

To be eligible for this recognition and award, a manager must provide excellent customer service, be an asset to their unit, have made a significant contribution to the success of their work group, and/or have promoted a positive work environment for their staff.

The winner will be announced in April 2017, and their name will be added to the permanent plaque that will reside in the Service Building. They will also receive a smaller plaque to keep in recognition of their outstanding leadership at PPD.



2017 UNM Financial Fitness Forum

May the Wealth Be With You!

The 2017 Financial Fitness Forum will help you learn how to improve your financial security! UNM faculty and staff are encouraged to attend one or more of these informative seminars*.

Save the Dates Workshop-style financial education sessions will be offered throughout each day. A detailed schedule will be sent to employees sometime in February:

Tuesday, March 21, 2017 (North Campus) Domenici Center and HSLIC

Wednesday, March 22, 2107 (Main Campus) Student Union Building (SUB)

Improve your ability to save, invest wisely, and protect yourself and loved ones from catastrophic risks. Be better prepared for retirement, put your estate affairs in order, and more!

**UNM Leadership and HR will offer up to 1.5 hours of time off in order for employees to attend at least one session, with prior management approval and based on department and/or office coverage needs.*

Temp-to-Regular

Please congratulate Angel Ruiz, HVAC Tech 2 in Area 1, for moving from a temporary employee to regular, full-time employee of the Physical Plant Department. Congratulations, Angel!!!

Kudos continued

Thank you, Mr. Torres!!! Your knowledge is much appreciated and has improved my working conditions greatly.

In addition to being knowledgeable, Mr. Torres was very professional and humble. He puts a wonderful “face” to your office. I hope he will stay with UNM for a while as his expertise and demeanor make him a true gem in my eyes.

Big thanks for all,

Ana Andzic Tomlinson, J.D.

Executive Director of Research & Compliance

Adjunct Professor, School of Law

Upcoming Events

February 17	Smith Plaza Planning Workshop (SUB)
February 17	Lobo Food Pantry
February 28	Lobo Day - UNM's Birthday Celebration
March 12	Daylight Saving Time begins
March 13-17	UNM Spring Break
March 16-18	Central NM Science & Engineering Research Challenge
March 24	Lobo Food Pantry
March 31	Deadline for PPD Outstanding Manager Nominations
April 8	Fiestas
April 9	Spring Triathlon
April 12	GEO International Fair
April 20	UNM Sustainability Fair
April 28	Arts Unexpected
April 28	Lobo Food Pantry
April 30	Nizhoni Days



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The Physical Plant Department's mission is to consistently deliver effective programs and efficient facility service based on sustainable and collaborative outcome aligned with The University of New Mexico's core mission.

The Physical Plant Department's vision is that our community, state, and national peers will recognize The University of New Mexico's Physical Plant Department as a leader in campus sustainability and facilities stewardship.