



# PPD News

Physical Plant Department

## In Memoriam

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It is with great sadness to announce that Felix Cruz-Lopez passed away on Sunday, May 1, 2016. He was a Facilities Services Tech in Area 1 and had been an employee with the Physical Plant Department for just over three years.

Cruz-Lopez had a charismatic, friendly attitude that was appreciated by many. A few of his coworkers said, "He was a wonderful employee who never complained and always had a smile on his face. He was a joy to be around and a great person and a great friend who would do anything for family and friends. If anything was needed, he was always there for a lending hand. He enjoyed working on cars, playing with his pups, fishing, camping, hanging with friends, but most of all, he loved spending quality time with his boys and his wife."

The employees in Area 1 have a card available for anyone who would like to sign it, and they are also collecting donations to give to the family to assist with any financial support they may need.

No information on services has been released as this time.



Felix Cruz-Lopez, Photo credit: Abdiel Yebra

## Arbor Day Tree Plantings



Jenna Hagengruber (left), ASUNM President 15-16, and Cheyenne Jay Feltz (right), ASUNM vice-president elect 16-17. Photo credit: Bryan Suhr

This week, the PPD arboriculture group planted a series of trees to commemorate Arbor Day. UNM's Main and North Campus is home to over 5,000 trees, and the Grounds & Landscaping unit works hard to keep our trees healthy, vibrant, and abundant for all to enjoy.

Each year, the arborists at UNM try to plant as many trees as they can during the spring and fall to continue to have the lush urban forest that exists today on the UNM campus.

Bryan Suhr, supervisor for Arboriculture at PPD says, "I wouldn't be doing this without the help and the support of PPD and the Staff Council!"

For the last several years, the Staff Council has teamed up with PPD to engage and educate the community about the importance of trees and the positive effects they have on humans and the environment.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), neighborhoods filled with trees report lower levels of domestic violence, are safer and more sociable, reduce stress of the body and mind, and decreases the need for medications and reduces recovery time from illness or injury.

Here are just a few of the trees that were planted recently on the UNM campus:

- 3 *Corylus colurna*, Turkish filbert, Westside of Family practice
- 1 *Yedoensis* flowering cherry, Southside of UNM Press
- 1 "New Horizon" elm tree at Eastside of Medical Library
- 2 *Acer rubrum*, Redpointe maple, Northwest corner of Anthropology
- 2 "New Horizon" elm trees at Eastside Johnson Field
- 1 Perfect Purple, Crabapple, in the Hokona Zia courtyard

## Refurbished Benches at UNM's Law School

The PPD Special Activities crew has done it again! These refurbished benches can be spotted all over campus, but their latest work of magic happened at Bratton Hall which houses UNM's Law School.

First, the worn wood was removed from the frames. Then, the crew painted the frames to give them a crisp, clean look. New redwood planks were sanded and stained before they were secured to the original bench frame and concrete. This process took a total of 85.5 hours for this crew of four: Nick Royle, Manuel Trujillo, Mark Perea and Kevin De Leon.

Thank you, Special Activities, for keeping our campus beautiful!



*A before picture of the worn benches at Bratton Hall. Photo credit: Jessica Regensberg*



*Newly refurbished benches thanks to the crew of PPD Special Activities. Photo credit: Jessica Regensberg*

## Campus Beauty

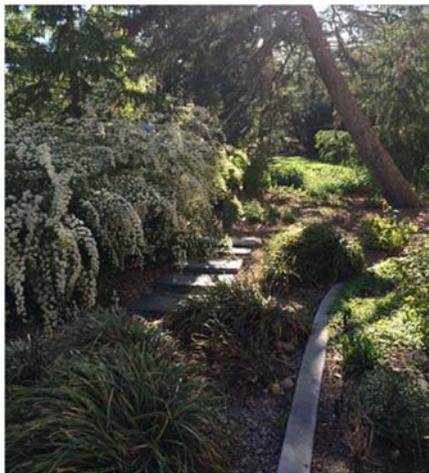
This is the time of year when the UNM Main Campus springs to life with beautiful blooms and colors.

If you spot a beautiful area on campus, please send your photos to Rachel Stone at [racheld@unm.edu](mailto:racheld@unm.edu). The photos collected will be shared on PPD's Facebook page, as well as the *PPD News* newsletter.

If you have beautiful campus photos, please email them to Rachel Stone at [racheld@unm.edu](mailto:racheld@unm.edu).



*Snowball bushes (viburnum) located on the north side of Scholes Hall. Photo credit: Rachel Stone*



*Spirea on the left was in full bloom this week at Scholes Hall. Photo credit: Rachel Stone*



*Roses located on the southwest corner of Hokona Hall. Photo credit: Willie West*

## PPD Safety Committee Meeting

A reminder to all PPD Safety Committee members that the next Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 10:00 am in the PPD Remodel Conference Room. We hope to see you there!

**Mission Statement:** The purpose of this committee is to work as a team with The University and the Physical Plant Department to promote safety awareness, motivation, and education of our employees in order to encourage a safe environment in all areas of life.

## Kudos

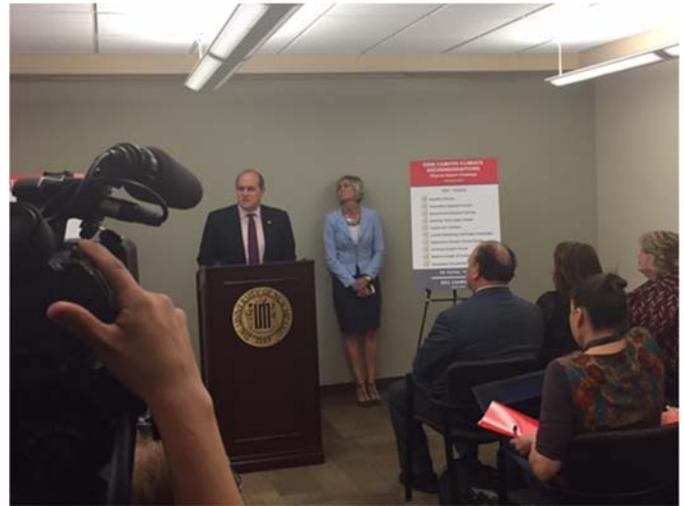
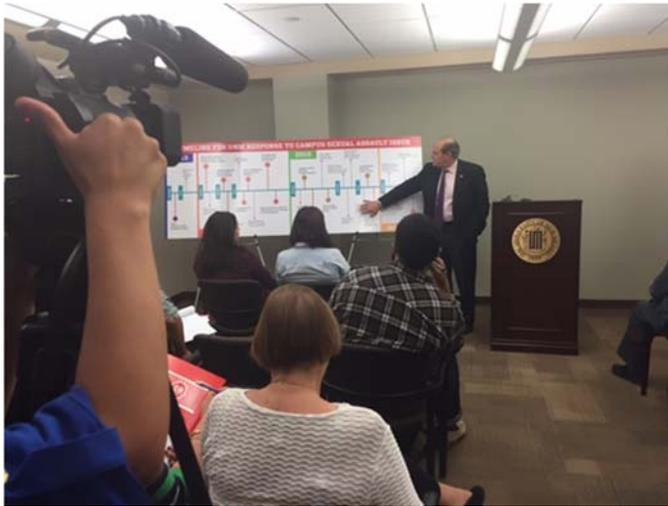
On April 18<sup>th</sup> in the President's Weekly Perspective, President Frank gave major kudos to the arborists and groundskeepers for a job well done. Here is an excerpt:

*Thank you to our arborists and groundskeepers who maintain our beautiful campus. There is an exceptional amount of work that goes into keeping our campus sustainably green and clean, and it is thanks to the men and women in our Physical Plant Department that UNM is one of the most beautiful open spaces in Albuquerque. I am always proud to bring people to our beautiful campus.*

To read the full message, click [here](#).

The PPD Sign Shop created some visual aids for President Frank to use during a recent presentation. Here is what the Chief Marketing & Communications Officer for UNM had to say...

*"Lots of media here - great visuals. Thanks so much!" – Cinnamon Blair*



**UNM** | Staff Council

*The Rewards and Recognition Committee presents the 2016 annual*

**Staff Appreciation Luncheon**

**May 26, 2016**  
**11:00 am - 2:00 pm**  
**SUB Ballrooms**

**Come help us Celebrate YOU! Win door prizes like free parking for a year!**

**Bring your Lobo ID to get a food ticket!**

*For more information: [scouncil@unm.edu](mailto:scouncil@unm.edu)*

Victor,

I want to thank you and your team for all of the support that they provide in preparation for last weeks NASCENT Site Visit. They did an outstanding job and made us look good. Your crews were here bright and early every morning and professionally prepared our facility for 120 visitors and 9 inspectors. Overall the inspection/site visit went well and the grant will be extended for another four years. This grant was critical to our operations and the work you and your team did really help us look professional.

We also had outstanding support, as usual, from Jessica Regensberg and her team. We had three different deliveries/pick-ups in three separate buildings over the week. She also advised me on where to get table covers, etc. and was very accommodating to a couple of last minute changes.

All during the Gathering of Nations Week which I know can be very demanding of PPD.

Not to mention everything she did when the governor visited us the previous month, which required stages, pipe and drape and seating on very short notice.

Jessica is always pleasant to work with and her scheduling is without compare across campus. Her crew is always on time and very accommodating to our needs. Please pass our thanks on to Jessica also.

Thanks again,

Joel Straquadine  
 Center for High Tech Materials

# Welcome to PPD

Please welcome Jered Gonzales to Area 2. He is the new HVAC Tech 2, and his first day was on May 2, 2016. Welcome to PPD, Jered!!

Please welcome Roberto Delgado to PPD Utilities. He is the new Instruments & Controls Tech 1, and his first day was on May 2, 2016. Welcome to PPD, Roberto!!

## Temp to Regular

Please congratulate Richard Chavez, Turf Tech, in Grounds & Landscaping. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, he moved from being a temporary employee, to a regular, full-time employee at the Physical Plant Department. Congratulations, Richard!

## Open Enrollment Continues

Open Enrollment for The University of New Mexico is now available through Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. Open Enrollment is a chance for UNM employees to enroll in or make changes to their participation in UNM benefit plans, including:

- Medical, dental and vision plans
- Life insurance
- Long-term disability
- Accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D)

The benefit changes made during Open Enrollment will take effect on July 1st of this year. Employees will not be able to make changes to their plan(s) after this period unless they experience a Qualifying Change of Status Event.

**Note: If you make NO changes during this Open Enrollment period, your current benefits elections will continue for the 2016 – 2017 plan year.**

**VEBA Opt-Out: Applies to faculty and staff employed in a benefits-eligible position between June 30, 2013 – June 30 2015.** Current VEBA participants have the opportunity to opt-out of VEBA contributions during the Open Enrollment period with an effective date of July 1, 2016. Opting out of VEBA participation is only permitted during this period, and results in the loss of any applicable grandfathered VEBA service credit and forfeiture of access to UNM Post-Retirement Benefits.

### Come to an Information Session!

Please attend one of the various Open Enrollment/VEBA Information Sessions offered on Main Campus, North Campus and Branch Campuses to learn more about upcoming Open Enrollment changes, the VEBA Opt-Out period, and other FY17 Benefits changes occurring on July 1, 2016.

View a complete list of [Vendor Fairs and Technical Assistance Sessions](#)

View a complete list of [2016 Open Enrollment and VEBA Information Sessions](#)

View the “Open Enrollment, FY17 Changes & VEBA Opt-Out” [Information Session presentation slides](#)

If you have additional questions, contact the Benefits Office at (505) 277-MyHR (6947).



PPD's Facebook page now has over 100 likes! Have you liked our page? If not, please visit <https://www.facebook.com/UNMPPD/> and hit the “Like” button. Here you will find a vast amount of information about UNM and the Physical Plant Department.



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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.***