



# PPD News

Physical Plant Department

## Space Matters *by Rachel Stone*

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Light, fresh, modern and uncluttered are just a few of the words that have been used to describe the renovated office space for Planning, Design, and Construction (PDC). PDC is the University resource for leading building design and development for the many departments at The University of New Mexico. Recently, PDC was able to create a space for themselves and also a place where UNM clients can get a hands-on look at what's possible for their projects.

“While it may look a bit like a showroom, we don’t sell anything. It really is more of a demonstration space for our internal clients to see some of the new, innovative, and wellness-centered approaches to facility design,” says Amy Coburn, University Architect and Director of PDC.

PDC staff are the creative talent behind UNM’s campus development and large renovations such as the new space in Zimmerman Library’s Learning and Graduate Commons. These construction projects take years of planning and stewardship to provide spaces usable in the complex environments indicative of high-research universities. Coburn is dedicated to using the industry’s best practices of design which foster flexibility, collaboration, creativity, and overall wellness in individuals using the spaces.

According to the Steelcase magazine titled *360°*, investing in worker well-being is just good business. “The return is high for forward-thinking organizations that invest in the physical, cognitive, and psychological wellbeing of their people by thinking about it holistically and incorporating it as a part of their business strategy.”

Coburn suggests that the traditional format of students sitting for long periods in a lecture-style classroom, or staff and faculty only doing their work in a private office, may not provide enough spatial variety to serve UNM’s educational objectives. Some sources note that these sedentary postures contribute to a variety of physical and mental health issues. This is why PDC is hoping to incorporate these best practices of interior environmental design with the new construction soon to be emerging across UNM in the coming years.



*Planning, Design & Construction used lots of glass, natural light and bright colors to create an energetic work environment. Photo credit: Rachel Stone*

Kimberly Sylvester, Interior Environments Design Manager for PDC, specializes in interiors and furnishings. Sylvester states that moving forward, PDC wants to design spaces to get people up and moving, where they can collaborate with one another and be inventive in how they spend their day at work or in the classroom.

“Students are enthusiastic about having spaces other than a traditional classroom where they just sit; they want to have choices. We also find that the more niches we create in the buildings for both collaborative and private study, the happier the students are,” says Sylvester. “PDC is trying to encourage people to think a little bit differently about how they use their space.”

In PDC’s new offices, the furniture is all free-standing and “non-handed,” meaning it is easily reconfigured to accommodate changes in people or space. This is vital when designing interiors for universities which always seem to undergo change.

Another element to the design incorporates a variety of community spaces to encourage casual or impromptu meetings, with simple glass and moveable elements to divide the spaces. There are pops of color to enhance mood and productivity, and a clean, modern look where clutter is minimized.

“The idea is to have our environments model what we aspire for our employees and students to experience while at UNM: uncluttered, streamlined, clean, with room to move and grow,” says Coburn.

To view the video produced to accompany this story, please visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6q7RveUrWN0>



MAY YOUR TROUBLES  
BE LESS  
and your  
Blessings  
be MORE  
AND NOTHING BUT  
HAPPINESS  
come through your  
door

## Paws have Popped-Up at the UNM Duck Pond

Red and white paws have been spotted around the UNM Duck Pond thanks to [ASUNM Lobo Spirit](#). In preparation for Spring Break and the Mountain West Conference, ASUNM Lobo Spirit wanted to boost Lobo pride by painting these paws in a highly visible location.

This student group worked with PPD's Grounds & Landscaping to gain approval to use this turf paint specially formulated for use on lawns.



*UNM students uses large stencils to create Lobo paws at the Duck Pond. Photo credit: Ryan Lindquist*



*Photo credit: Ryan Lindquist*



*Photo credit: Ryan Lindquist*

## Nominate a PPD employee today for a PAWS Award

The PAWS (People Appreciate Wonderful Staff) Award is presented each month to one staff employee who provides exceptional service to the UNM community. This employee exemplifies University values and shows initiative outside of their job scope.

The Staff Council is accepting nominations for the PAWS Award for the month of April and the deadline is Friday, 3/25/16! Download a short nomination form from the [Staff Council website](#).

## Service Building Workout Room Update

The Service Building workout room has been closed since Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, and will continue to be closed until further notice.

PPD and PDC (Planning, Design, and Construction) have collaborated to purchase, at a very low cost, some equipment in order to update the quality of the room and to encourage more use amongst staff in the Service Building. Employee wellness is a core value within Institutional Support Services (ISS) and is being demonstrated by this initiative.

Right now, the painting of the workout room is complete. The new equipment has been delivered and some of it has been set up (e.g. dumbbell and barbell racks). While the recumbent and upright bikes are useable, as is the elliptical, the room is not usable until the cable crossover and leg extension/curl machines have been assembled.

Michael Reid and Tracey Briggs will begin the assembly of the remaining equipment on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Service Building occupants will be notified when the Workout Room is available for use.

If you have questions about this closure, please contact Michael Reid at 220-6256 or [mreid@unm.edu](mailto:mreid@unm.edu).

## Kudos

Hello Mr. Victor Tovar,

I wanted to inform you that I want to commend Ms. Erika Alas for going above and beyond the call of duty today.

I was a chaperon on a field trip with both of my middle schools and I left my purse in the Theatre section of the SUB and our group had just finished lunch when I noticed I didn't have it. I frantically waived her down due to the time crunch of not having enough time to walk back and forth to leave with our school buses.

Ms. Alas stayed calm, took me back to the location, and my purse was retrieved. I had all my credit cards and valuable things in my purse and she saved the day! I thanked her and insisted that she give me her supervisor's name, email and number.

I would've made it back to my group in time! We went to both UNM and CNM today and I would've messed up our school's time table if it weren't for Ms. Erika Alas.

Please reward her with whatever you are able to and thank you so much for having employees at UNM who go the extra mile for all of us!!!

Please do not hesitate to call or email me!

She is truly amazing!

Sincerely,

Ms. Roberta Madrid

Edgewood & Moriarty Middle School Counselor EMS & MMS McKinney Vento Liaison MMS PTO Staff Representative

Dear all,

I am writing to express my acknowledgement and sincere thanks to Mikel Matic, Area 4 Facilities Services Technician, for his exceptional efforts in designing a clever, cost-effective, and beautiful hanging system for our Supercomputing '14 and '15 conference posters on the 'main showroom floor' of our Center [CARC]. Once I approved the design and materials purchase by CARC, Mikel quickly implemented his design (including mounting and installation with the able assistance of Oralia Nuñez) and we are receiving many compliments from visitors on the elegant display. Most of these posters had been sitting sadly on the floor for over a year, propped against office doors, and Mikel's system simply perfect--- and finally does them justice.

I wanted to recognize Mikel for going 'above and beyond' in the best spirit of UNM, and thank you as well for PPD Area 4's continued excellent support of the Center infrastructure, without which we could not fulfill our academic and research missions.

Please stop by the Center any time to see Mikel's work in the main CARC reception area --- "just look up."

Sincerely,

Susan Atlas, Director, Center for Advanced Research Computing



*Supercomputing conference posters hung by Mikel Matic and Oralia Nuñez in Area 4*

*Photo credit: Rachel Stone*

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# Welcome to PPD

Please welcome Athena Salazar to HSC Custodial Services. She is the new Administrative Assistant III. Welcome to PPD, Athena!!

## Promotions

Please congratulate Kendall Ritchie on his promotion! Kendall was previously a Master Utility Plant Tech with PPD Utilities, and has been promoted to the Utility Plant Operations Supervisor. His new position began on March 5, 2016. Congratulations, Kendall!

## Temp to Regular

Please congratulate the following employees on moving from temporary employees to regular, full-time employees of the Physical Plant Department:

- Eutimio Duran-Delgado, Custodian, HSC Custodial Services
- Dominique Lopez, Custodian, HSC Custodial Services



## ISS SOCIAL & HAPPY HOUR

March 23, 2016  
4:30p-6:30p  
University Club



Come relax, mingle and get to know your fellow ISS colleagues.

All ISS employees are invited to attend!



Enjoy complimentary appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages. Beer, Wine & Cocktails also available for purchase.

***THE PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT'S MISSION IS TO CONSISTENTLY DELIVER EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND EFFICIENT FACILITY SERVICES BASED ON SUSTAINABLE AND COLLABORATIVE OUTCOMES 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.***

***The University of New Mexico***

***Physical Plant Department***

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NEW MEXICO

*Physical Plant Department*

