



# PPD News

Physical Plant Department

## PPD Custodian celebrates 50 years at UNM

by Rachel Stone

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Free parking on campus right next to the Student Union Building (SUB). Friendly pool and bowling games at lunch time. Half-priced breakfast and lunch for employees at the SUB. These are just a few of the nostalgic things Irvin Romero remembers of The University of New Mexico in 1966, the year he was officially hired as UNM staff. Today, 50 years later, Romero is still working on North Campus in the Family Practice Center as a custodian for the Physical Plant Department (PPD).

As you can imagine, many things have changed since 1966. This is the year that Popejoy Hall opened, as well as The Pit (now named WisePies Arena). Romero was just 19 years old earning \$1.20 an hour, working in the SUB on a team called the “custodial specials.” Their primary responsibility was to set up and tear down events, as well as maintain cleanliness in the facility.

“It was really nice working for the SUB all those years. 24 years to be exact,” Romero said. “In 1990, they moved the custodial staff from the SUB to PPD, and I’ve been here ever since.”

Looking back, Romero never thought he would be working at UNM 50 years later. “I just kind of fell into work at UNM and was having a nice time, so I stayed. Before you know it, it’s 50 years later!” he said.

Born in Seboyeta, New Mexico, Romero grew up amongst alfalfa farmers and a community where gardens grew and people took care of one another. He is one of the “old-timers” left on campus that values land and space, a steady handshake, and an unwavering work ethic. The people are what has mattered to

Romero over the decades.

“I’ve met some really interesting people over the years. UNM has been a good employer. I’ve always had steady work - I could always count on that,” said Romero.

Romero has spent 50 years on the UNM campus which has grown by 249 buildings over the last five decades.

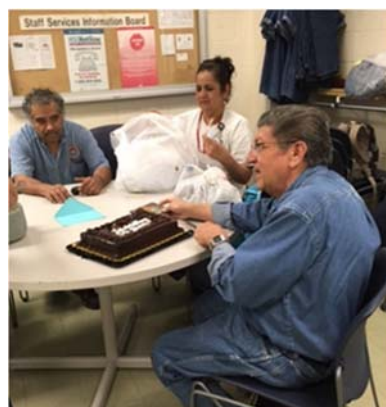
“UNM has changed a lot,” he said.

Romero offered some words of wisdom to anyone beginning the journey as an employee at The University:

“Think about retirement at a young age. Plan for the future. Work steady.”



*Irvin Romero who has spent most of his life at The University of New Mexico. Credit: Michael Crocker*



*Irvin Romero celebrates with his colleagues on his 50th anniversary which was September 1, 2016. Credit: Michael Crocker*

**Heads-up, PPD!** This year’s United Way BBQ has been scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars for this fun, important annual event that supports the United Way.



United Way of Central New Mexico

## PPD Custodian completes Trades Training Program

Bruce Anaya, custodian with PPD Main Campus Custodial Services, has successfully completed the electrical track for the PPD Trades Training Program which began last year. His sponsor, Gilbert Mascarenas, is a master electrician in Area 1 and spent many hours mentoring Anaya in the field of electrical work.

The PPD Trades Training Program was developed to create a career path for PPD employees who are interested in advancing within the department, and works in tandem with courses at Central New Mexico Community College (CNM).

The program is open to all PPD employees who are currently in a position that is Job Grade 6 or below. The program will provide the basic training needed to apply for the Facilities Services Tech or Automotive Tech positions (Job Grade 7) within PPD. The participant will be partnered with a current PPD employee (Sponsor) within their elected trade to gain the hands-on experience they will need to qualify for future opportunities. Applications into the program will be accepted in January and July. The program will accept a maximum of 4 applicants each 6-month period and requires management approval.

Congratulations, Bruce and Gilbert!

For more information about this program, please contact Daniel Perea at 505-277-4872 or email at [Dperea1@unm.edu](mailto:Dperea1@unm.edu).



*Bruce Anaya (left) and Gilbert Mascarenas (right) were presented with certificates after successful completion of the program. Credit: Daniel Perea*

## IDTC Landscaping and Furniture Upgrade

Last summer, the PPD Grounds & Landscaping division oversaw a landscape renovation project on the north side of the Innovation, Discovery, and Training Complex (IDTC- building 289). The landscaping in this area was uninviting, bare, and lacked “curb-appeal.” The new landscaping includes an upgraded irrigation system, new plants and trees, lawn areas, and concrete sidewalks. The Special Activities team went in after the project was complete to install new outdoor furniture. Doesn’t the new outdoor space look great!?



*New furniture and landscaping makes this space more inviting. Credit: Willie West*



*Credit: Willie West*

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## **Kudos**

Willie,

I wanted to send you a quick email to say I really appreciate the help that Jessica, along with her team were able to provide on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> when we moved the violin making studio. Jessica was well organized on the day of the move and was very helpful in pre-planning with coming up with creative solutions to the move logistics. Her team of Nick, Mark Manuel and Kevin did an outstanding job of facilitating the move. They are all hard workers and I have come to enjoy working with them as well as getting to know them. I also appreciate you letting some of the grounds workers help with the move. The extra hands made a huge a difference on our tight time line.

Thanks,  
Mark S. Orgeron  
Office of the Provost

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### From PPD's Customer Survey Results through TMA:

*Special Activities:* This project involved personnel from Special events, CHTM, Chemistry, EPS, and the contracted crane operator. Everyone performed their tasks in competent and safe manner and the move was completed in 2 hours.

*Pest Management:* Felix is always very responsive, thorough, and excellent in customer service. We love dealing with him!

Thank you, Felix! You are always so quick to get things taken care of and always a pleasure to work with. Thanks for your help during Welcome Back Days, I appreciate it!

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Hello Gentlemen,

I just wanted to pass on my gratitude regarding Stephen Wallace [Facilities Services Tech-Area 4] as he works on the chair repair in Woodward 101. He has been really good at following up with me as we were waiting to hear back from KI. I appreciate his initiative in getting the work done before the new semester starts.

We usually only hear when we screw up so I wanted to pass on my thanks and let you know Steve is doing a good job.

Thanks,  
Tim Johnson  
Manager, Academic Technology Services  
UNM IT Classroom Technologies

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John,

Please let Maria [Pacheco] from PPD know that Frankie [Gutierrez] did a great job cleaning up the floors in rooms 163A, B, and C. He also did an excellent job cleaning the upholstered chairs in 163B and the upholstered chair in Bruce's office (1584).

Thanks.

Ms. Terry A. Horger  
Program Specialist: Sustainability Studies Program

## PPD Manager earns a Certified Educational Facilities Professional credential

Please congratulate Michael McCord, manager of Area 3, for successfully passing the Certified Educational Facilities Professional (CEFP) offered through APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities. The CEFP credential represents the highest standards of performance and understanding in educational facilities management, and demonstrates the individual's commitment to ongoing professional development, dedication, and continuous improvement in the management of educational facilities.

Congratulations, Michael McCord, CEFP!!!

## Medial Premium Discount Correction

In the last issue of *PPD News*, incorrect information was given regarding the disbursement of the medical premiums after a preventative health checkup.

In the fall of 2016, your discount will appear in your paycheck approximately two months after you receive the preventive health checkup. For employees whose medical premiums are less than \$200 per pay period, the \$200 will spread over several pay periods. If you do not see a discount reflected in your paycheck after two months have passed, please contact Human Resources so they can ensure that you receive your premium discount in a timely manner.

For more information, please visit <https://hr.unm.edu/wellness/preventive-health-checkups>.



### **Construction Update: Crews to Resume Work On Central Near University from Sept. 19-23, 2016**

*NOTE: All construction is weather permitting and subject to change without notice.*

The Water Authority is replacing and realigning old water lines that are in conflict with the ART (Albuquerque Rapid Transit) Project.

#### **September 19-23, 2016**

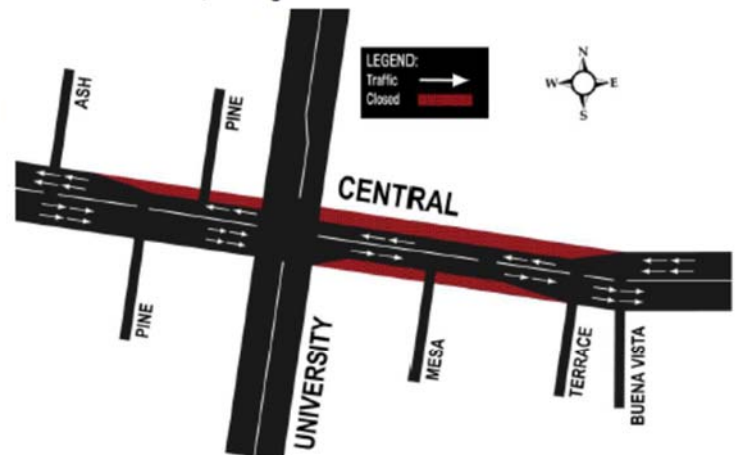
During the week before the Balloon Fiesta Construction Moratorium, crews will work on shutting down 16-inch and a 24-inch water lines so that they can be abandoned in place.

During this work, the right lane of eastbound Central will be closed from just east of University to just east of Terrace. Also, the right lane of westbound Central will be closed from Buena Vista to west of Pine.

**MOTORISTS SHOULD EXPECT DELAYS AND PEDESTRIANS SHOULD AVOID THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE.**

**Regular work hours will be Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m.,**

however the contractor may work extended hours or on Saturday if needed.



Crews will return to the construction area on **Monday, Oct. 10.**

**QUESTIONS, CONCERNS OR WANT TO BE ADDED TO EMAIL LIST FOR CONSTRUCTION UPDATES?**

Contact Patti Watson, 245-3134; 269-9691; or email [pattiw@cwastrategic.com](mailto:pattiw@cwastrategic.com).

For more information about ART: call 398-4ART (398-4278) or visit [www.brtaq.com](http://www.brtaq.com).

## Financial Wellness Seminars

Make progress on your Financial Wellness! How? Attend the Thrive Thursday / Financial Friday lunch hour seminars in place of your usual lunch routine. The September sessions are slated for 12:00 – 1:00 pm on Thursday, September 22 (Main Campus) and Friday, September 23 (North Campus), and will address the topic *Tomorrow in Focus: Saving for Your Ideal Retirement*, presented by TIAA.

Thursday's event will be webcast live via Lync/Skype for Business: [Join Skype Meeting](#), and Friday's event will be viewable live via this webcast link: [Tomorrow in Focus 9/23/2016](#)

For the full schedule and more information visit:  
<https://hr.unm.edu/financial-wellness-program#saving-ideal-retirement>

## Provost Committee for Staff Scholarship

The Provost's Committee for Staff (PCS) is accepting applications for the Fall 2016 Scholarship. Applications will no longer be accepted after Monday, September 26 at 5pm.

If you are taking Fall courses and would like to pay for those outstanding fees or books, please apply! If selected, scholarship funds can also be used towards professional development courses.

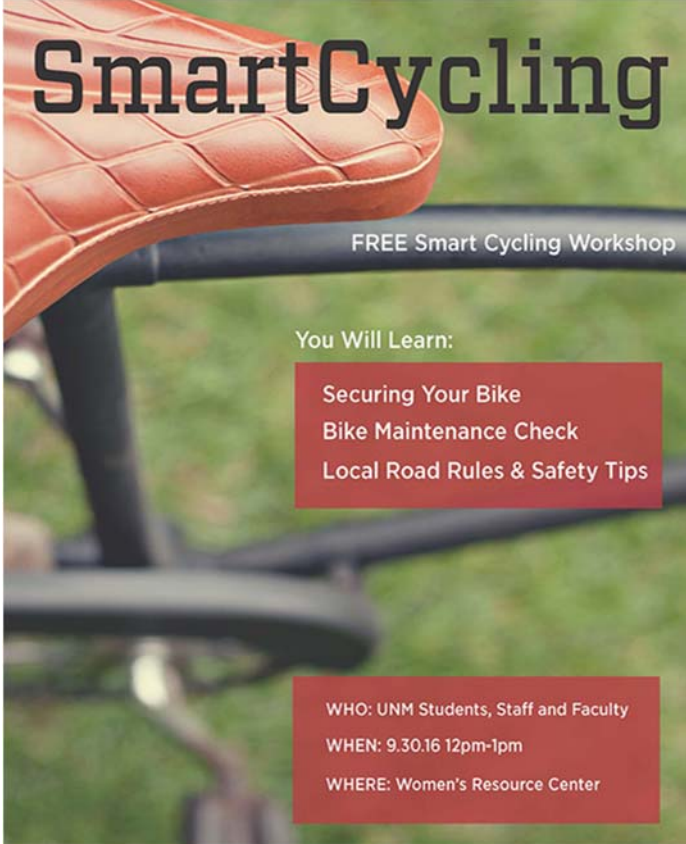
Visit the PCS site for more information and to apply: <http://pcs.unm.edu>

## Free Smart Cycling Workshop

Learn about how to secure your bike properly, bike maintenance check and local road rules and safety tips at this free event on Friday, Sept. 30 at noon in the Women's Resource Center Group Room.

## PPD New Employee Orientation

Attention managers and supervisors! PPD's next New Employee Orientation (NEO) is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2016. This session will be held in the Service Building Training Room 122 from 8:30-10:00am. Rachel Stone will be sending specific employee invitations to the Area managers this week. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Stone at [racheld@unm.edu](mailto:racheld@unm.edu) or 505-277-7831.



**SmartCycling**

FREE Smart Cycling Workshop

You Will Learn:

- Securing Your Bike
- Bike Maintenance Check
- Local Road Rules & Safety Tips

WHO: UNM Students, Staff and Faculty  
 WHEN: 9.30.16 12pm-1pm  
 WHERE: Women's Resource Center

## ISS Newsletter Contest Winner



Congratulations to Arnita Peralta, custodian in PPD Main Campus Custodial Services! She won a goodie bag from Residence Life & Student Housing (RLSH) and a tshirt!

If you'd like a chance to win a prize, make sure you add your name to the monthly drawing in the Institutional Support Services (ISS) newsletter.

## Upcoming Events

- September 21<sup>st</sup>: PPD Safety Committee Safety Exposition
- September 22<sup>nd</sup>: First day of Autumn
- September 23<sup>rd</sup>: Fall Frenzy
- September 26<sup>th</sup>- October 1<sup>st</sup>: Homecoming Week
- October 1<sup>st</sup>: Lobos vs. San Jose State (Football)
- October 7<sup>th</sup>: Lobos vs. Boise State (Football)
- October 25<sup>th</sup>: PPD United Way BBQ
- November 6<sup>th</sup>: Daylight Savings Time ends
- December 23- January 2: Winter Break



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE PPD  
EMPLOYEE'S SAFETY COMMITTEE

### VENDOR'S Safety Exposition

Wednesday, September 21, 2016  
12:30 – 1:30 pm

AT THE SERVICE BUILDING'S  
WEST PARKING LOT

Several of PPD's Business Partners  
will be here to  
"Show & Tell"  
their latest safety equipment

ICE CREAM WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

