

Construction to begin on the UNM Smith Plaza renovation *by Rachel Stone*

The long time vision of creating a “great room” in the heart of The University of New Mexico (UNM) campus will become a reality. Construction is scheduled to begin on the Smith Plaza renovation project on Dec. 18. Fencing will be the first notable sign of the exciting things to come, as well as diverted pedestrian traffic around this area ([see map](#)).

Smith Plaza is a highly visible and utilized area located in the heart of UNM’s Main Campus. This outdoor space is used for various student-centered events despite the fact that it is a generally uninviting space.

Kim Kloeppel, chief operations officer with The University’s Student Affairs division, has tirelessly advocated for this infrastructure improvement for many years, believing that one day students would have a comfortable, outdoor place to hang out in at Smith Plaza.

“It’s estimated that 10,000 students, staff, and faculty flow through this area each day,” she said. “This renovation will create a vibrant, safe, accessible, and comfortable environment that promotes a balance of academic and social activities.”

Kloeppel worked closely with Amber Straquadine, associate project manager for UNM’s [Planning, Design, & Construction \(PDC\)](#), who oversees every aspect of the project from the design and maintaining the budget, all the way through the construction process.

Straquadine, a graduate of UNM, was pleased to be involved in invigorating this “monumental” outdoor space for The University campus community.

“The project team strived to include a diverse range of campus constituents, including student-related organizations such as Student Affairs, the Student Activities Center, the Accessibility Resources Center, and the Student Union Building (SUB). We also solicited input from institutional support groups such as the Physical Plant Department and Safety & Risk Services,” explained Straquadine.

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This rendering shows what the new Smith Plaza will look like viewed from the UNM Duck Pond.

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Happy Holidays!
Wishing you and
your family a
wonderful
holiday season.

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The new Smith Plaza will encompass:

Elevated Study/Lounge Plateaus

Elevated “plateaus” will provide a usable perimeter to an open space offering lounge areas, outdoor classrooms, study areas, and café seating. These low site walls are elevated approximately two feet above the large open plaza giving users the opportunity to witness activities in the open space from a shady, comfortable perch. Tables and benches give way to mounded lawn space shaded by trees.

Improved Accessibility

The proposed schematic design will dramatically improve physical access within and through Smith Plaza for people of all abilities. The major transition from Union Square down into Smith Plaza is now negotiated by a single inclined walkway. The new design is direct and doesn’t require users to choose between stairs or a ramp, but mixes all users into the same route and incorporates best practices for sightless wayfinding.

Sponsorship and Naming Options

This project has incorporated the opportunity for donations, sponsorship, plaque and naming options. Naming is available on the four plateaus and Lobo Landing area, and sponsorship options are available for the donor wall and lantern shades, all of which have been incorporated into the design. For more information, [click here](#).

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on Jan. 18 at 9:00 a.m. at Smith Plaza.

The \$3 million renovation project is expected to be complete in August 2018.

If you have questions about this project, please contact Amber Straquadine at ambers@unm.edu.

Winter Setback program enters its 10th year of saving the University money by Rachel Stone



Later this month, The University of New Mexico (UNM) will begin its traditional winter break closure, which means the campus will be bereft of its typical hustle and bustle. Ten years ago, the Physical Plant Department (PPD) saw this time period as an opportunity to utilize energy control systems to their fullest potential in select buildings, saving The University thousands in utility costs that first year.

The UNM Winter Setback Program was born, and as PPD continued to upgrade buildings with new energy control technology, more and more savings were seen. This winter break will be the 10th year where select campus buildings will have their temperatures “setback.”

“The Winter Setback Program has saved The University hundreds of thousands of dollars since its inception, due to PPD’s efforts and support from faculty, staff and students,” said Interim President Chaouki T. Abdallah.

In the coming weeks, PPD and Lobo Energy Inc. (LEI) will work with occupants to determine which buildings must be kept within a strict temperature range and where temperature settings could be more rigorous.

UNM building temperatures will be set back beginning Dec. 22, 2017, and will return to normal on Jan. 3, 2018. If you have questions about this program, or have questions about your building temperatures during the annual winter break, please contact PPD at 505-277-1600.

PPD All Stars

The Physical Plant Department's (PPD) "All Star" staff recognition award was developed to recognize employees for being exceptional and to show appreciation for the excellent staff at PPD. Winners will receive a \$20 LoboCa\$h card to use at various locations on campus.

Here are the PPD All Stars from the month of November:

Congratulations to Rochelle Lucas, service call coordinator for PPD Work Control!! Rochelle was nominated by Daniel Perea, and he said:

Rochelle was nominated for the PPD All Star Award because she brings a wealth of great skills and talent to the Work Control group. Rochelle actively seeks out new ways to improve our processes and provides quality customer service to The University community. Rochelle works the early shift in our department and does a great job of expediting/creating work orders for all the PPD areas from the previous evening to ensure customer's requests are handled in an efficient manner. We can always count on Rochelle to be here on a daily basis and to get the work orders flowing for the day.



(from l to r) Al Sena, Rochelle Lucas, and Daniel Perea. Credit: Rachel Stone



(from l to r) Leo Lucero, John Couch, and Al Sena. Credit: Rachel Stone

Congratulations to John Couch, supervisor for Area 2!! John was nominated by Leo Lucero and he said:

John is the first Area 2 recipient of this award. On a daily basis, John Couch continues to be Area 2's greatest resource due to his knowledge of the Health Sciences Center (HSC) facilities; his comprehensive understanding of the projects and maintenance issues; his mentorship of subordinates; and his professional attitude. His institutional knowledge and professional work ethic has been invaluable for me, the new Area 2 manager, and proves to be one of the best customer relationship assets. Thank you, John, for what you do every day!



Give to PPD Holiday Families

No one has ever become poor by giving. ~ Anne Frank

For the last decade, PPD has been able to sponsor one or more PPD families to help make their holiday a little brighter. The many families who have received gifts from PPD are filled with gratitude, joy, and sometimes tears. Your contributions truly do make a difference in a PPD family's life.

This year, our goal is to sponsor two or more families. Please give what you can, even if it is only \$1. Your contribution could help buy a new basketball for a young child, or it could go to purchasing a gift card so the family can purchase holiday groceries.

If you can give, please drop off your monetary donations on or before Dec. 13 to:

- Giovanna Archuleta, PPD Admin
- Teresa Natera, PPD Human Resources
- Karen Hobbs, PPD Human Resources

Thank you, PPD!



PPD Holiday Potluck

PPD's Annual Holiday Potluck will be here before you know it! It will be held on Thursday, Dec. 14 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Continuing Education North.

Look for sign-up sheets in your area or in the PPD front office to bring your favorite dish to share. There will be a raffle and door prizes, as well as voting for your favorite holiday hat decorated by various PPD employees.

It will be a fun time to celebrate the holiday season! We hope to see you there!

YOU'RE INVITED!



You are invited to

PPD's ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK

December 14, 2017

11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

UNM Continuing Education North

Bring your favorite dish to share!

*Raffle for Door Prizes
&*

Vote for your Favorite Holiday Hat!

Look for sign-up sheets in your division or in the PPD Front Office
Contact the Front Office or Gio at 277-2421 or 277-1109 for questions



UNM introduces draft Policy 5050 for review

A new policy ([UAP 5050](#)) was out for campus review last month called the Facility Maintenance, Repair, and Alterations. This policy, if approved, would be the first of its kind at The University of New Mexico (UNM). At its heart, the policy states that all construction, maintenance, and renovation of campus facilities shall be performed by the “professional staff dedicated” to these functions.

It states that only PPD and Planning, Design, & Construction (PDC) can authorize work which includes replacing, modifying, relocating, removing, or painting doors, walls, windows, shelving, or flooring; the alteration or penetration of corridors or ceilings; adding on to or dividing existing space; and work on any building utility system. This new policy would ensure projects of this nature are performed in a safe manner, abiding by set standards and codes, and would further the accuracy of building infrastructure information essential to efficiency and safety.

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

The UNM Policy Office will make revisions based on public comment and then it will be submitted to the UNM President for approval. If approved, the policy will be issued on the Policy Office’s website. This policy is expected to be in place beginning in the Spring 2018.

Kudos

Willie [West],

A quick note of deep appreciation for the work of Alan Billau and his colleagues.

A day after I submitted a request to Grounds, Alan had already walked around our building and was on the phone to me about getting connected to make sure we were both thinking of the same solutions - trimming trees and shrubs to minimize homeless people seeking shelter around Oñate Hall.

A day later, Alan and his crew were on site - getting the work done with precision.

Here's the thing, our folks over here raised a safety concern. I brought it to your folks. Your folks did a great job in a very timely manner.

Our folks noticed and asked me to pass along our thanks to your folks.

Much obliged.

Richard S. Towne
KUNM General Manager



PPD Promotions

Albert Morga is now a master plumber in Area 4. He was promoted from a plumber 2 in Area 4. Congratulations, Albert!

Veronica Vargas is now a recycling tech with UNM Recycling. She was promoted from a custodian in Main Campus Custodial Services. Congratulations, Veronica!

Joshua LaCour is now a lead recycling tech with UNM Recycling. He was promoted from a recycling tech. Congratulations, Joshua!

Stephen Soisson is now a lead recycling tech with UNM Recycling. He was promoted from a recycling tech. Congratulations, Stephen!

Welcome to PPD

Please welcome Alex Van Disco to PPD Special Activities. He is the new trades tech helper and comes to us from Parking & Transportation Services (PATS). Welcome to PPD, Alex!

Please welcome Angela Aragon to PPD Administration. She is the new administrative assistant 2 and comes to us from UNM West. Welcome to PPD, Angela!

Please welcome John Shaski to UNM Recycling. He is the new supervisor of recycling services. Welcome to PPD, John!

Happy Tails Drive ends tomorrow

Every year, Staff Council partners with PPD to put out collection bins at a variety of locations on-campus to support New Mexico Animal Humane. Donated items will be collected through Friday, Dec. 8. The Service Building has a decorated bin in the hallway ready to collect your donation to help New Mexico pets.



Physical Plant Department
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Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
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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.



Monday, November 13 – Friday, December 8

**Animal Humane New Mexico's
2017 Holiday Wish List**

10th Annual Happy Tails Drive

Thank you for helping homeless pets through our donation drive!



- One Stop, Mesa Vista Hall, Main Campus, Building 56
- SSSC, South Campus, Building 337
- Satellite Coffee, Main Campus, Student Union, Building 60
- Front Desk (students only), Staff Council Office, Room 302 (Staff), Hokona Hall, Main Campus, Building 58
- Front Desk (students only), Coronado Hall, Main Campus, Building 155
- Front Desk (students and staff), SRCs, Main Campus, Building 89
- Health Science Library, North Campus, Building 234
- Family Practice Center, North Campus, Building 340
- SHAC, Main Campus, Building 73
- PPD Service Building, Building 204
- Scholes Hall, Main Campus, Building 10
- PPD Recycling Yard, Building 276 (Corner of University and Tucker)



- Canned kitten food
- Fancy Feast pâté-style, poultry-based preferred
- Dog and cat pheromone calming collars (Feliway brand)
- PetAg brand KMR (kitten milk replacer)

Foster Care:

- Canned grain-free cat and dog food
- Kuranda beds
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers
- Clorox liquid bleach
- Liquid dish soap

Animal Care:

- 32oz Spray Bottles
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Potty Pads
- AA Lithium Batteries

Clinic:

- 32oz Spray Bottles
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Potty Pads
- AA Lithium Batteries

Pet Food Bank:

- Cat & dog food (dry or wet)

Please shop at & donate to our Thrift Shop:
615 Virginia St. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108