



March 3-16, 2017

In Memoriam by Willie West

PPD's Grounds and Landscaping group mourns the passing of one of our colleagues. Diego Roybal passed away unexpectedly on Friday, March 10, 2017. Diego was hired at the University in April 2013 as a temporary employee. He later applied for and was hired as an irrigation tech in August 2013.



PPD mourns the loss of PPD Grounds & Landscaping irrigation tech, Diego Roybal. Credit: Juan Garcia

Diego took great pride in his work and enjoyed being at PPD. He was passionate about keeping the campus grounds well maintained, safe and enjoyable for our students, faculty, staff and visitors. Diego leaves behind a great many friends and coworkers whose lives he touched and who will miss him deeply.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Diego's family as they go forward with heavy hearts and loving memories of a unique man who has left us far too soon. The sadness of losing Diego will fade with the passing of time, but our fond memories of a life ended far too soon will stay with us always.

Donations are being accepted for the family to help offset expenses. Gifts can be given at the Physical Plant Department main office, and are greatly appreciated.

Diego's family and friends are also hosting a horseshoe tournament and pot luck in order to raise money for the family. Participation in the horseshoes tournament is \$10.00 a person, or \$20.00 a team, and there will be \$5.00 plates of food available with raffles throughout the day. It will be held on Sunday, March 19th from 10am - 6pm, located at 2126 Matthew Ave. NW 87104.

A cremation memorial service will be held on Monday, March 27th at Our Lady of Guadalupe from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. There will be a reception to follow at the Valley High School gym from 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm.

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May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light.

May good luck pursue you each morning and night.

~ Irish Blessing



PPD Arborists plant Piñon Pines for New Mexico Arbor Day

By Rachel Stone

With the help of a few students, the arborists with the Physical Plant Department's (PPD) Grounds & Landscaping unit planted two Piñon Pine trees, one near the Social Sciences building and the other in the grove just north of Zimmerman Library. New Mexico's Arbor Day fell on March 10th of this year, and Alan Billau, lead arborist, felt it important to plant the state's official tree on The University of New Mexico (UNM) campus to commemorate this day.

"Trees are an important part of our environment, so I couldn't think of a more appropriate tree to plant on New Mexico Arbor Day than the New Mexico Piñon Pine tree," Billau said.

The Piñon Pine is a native tree to New Mexico and can be seen growing at 4,500 feet up to an elevation of about 8,000 feet. It thrives in our environment because it requires low amounts of water and an arid, sunny climate. The Piñon Jay heavily relies on the nuts from the Piñon tree as a food source, and the tree provides shade year round. Its nuts are even seen in New Mexico cuisine.

The UNM campus is home to over 5,000 trees located in the heart of Albuquerque. There are a wide variety of trees ranging in size and age, some saplings and some that are many decades old. Caring for the tree environment on campus is a full-time job, requiring a team of arborists with the expertise to care for a wide variety of species in this unique urban high desert environment.

The arborists at UNM spend their time caring for the tree environment, including the planting of new trees which requires planning and care. It is important to maintain the vibrant tree environment for decades to come.

During the week of National Arbor Day in April, the PPD arborists will host several tree plantings across the campus to ensure the future of UNM's trees.

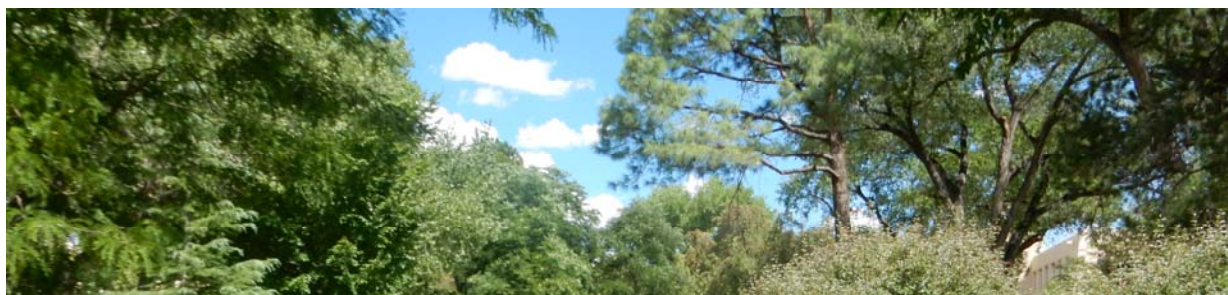
The PPD arborists would like to thank Richard Perce and his staff at Satellite Coffee in the UNM Student Union Building (SUB) and the LGBTQ Resource Center for their donations and support of this event on New Mexico's Arbor Day.



Thank you to the UNM students (from left) Jay, Gabby, and Shana (Sophie not pictured) who donated their time, picked up a shovel, and helped with the plantings on New Mexico Arbor Day. Credit: Evan Baker



Alan Billau talks about proper planting techniques with UNM students. Credit: Juan Garcia



A Blooming Campus



This is the time of year when the UNM campus blossoms with color from flowering flora. Take a moment to walk around campus to discover the beauty that surrounds you thanks to the staff at PPD Grounds & Landscaping. They work hard year-round to ensure our campus is a place you want to be.

A Flowering Quince located north of Fine Arts as well as several other locations on Campus. Credit: Willie West

Deadline approaching for the Outstanding Manager Award

Nominations are being accepted for the Physical Plant Department (PPD) annual Outstanding Manager Award. This award 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.

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.

ISS Survey Deadline is Friday, March 17th

The ISS Communications & Marketing Committee have released a survey to help improve the current programs and possibly develop new ones. The deadline to complete it is this Friday, March 17th. The survey is available both electronically and in print. Everyone who completes the survey will be entered into a drawing for some cool prizes.

If you have questions about this survey, please contact Rachel Stone at 277-7831 or email at racheld@unm.edu, or Alicia Solano at 277-2171 or email at solano@unm.edu.

[Click Here](#) to take the survey.

Building Coordinator Meeting Scheduled

The Physical Plant Department (PPD) will host a Building Coordinator meeting on Wednesday, April 5th from 9 - 10:30 am in the Bobo Room at Hodgin hall. All PPD managers are highly encouraged to attend the meeting.

Any UNM employee who has been appointed as a contact for building issues and communications are encouraged to attend. PPD holds a Building Coordinator Meeting every semester in order to educate and collaborate on a series of important facilities topics: safety and emergency preparedness, building maintenance, how to place a work order, and general facility management operations, to name a few.

This spring meeting will cover the following topics:

- An introduction of the PPD Management Team: Shirley Mitchell, Chris Vallejos, and Jason Strauss
- PPD Engineering & Energy Services will discuss the wide variety of LED lighting projects they have completed on campus and the benefits of LEDs.
- PPD Sign Shop will discuss their process and services available to all UNM departments
- Tabia Murray Allred will discuss the reorganization of the Remodel unit
- Institutional Support Services (ISS) Information Technologies (IT) will highlight their projects involving security cameras on campus

The Physical Plant Department is excited and motivated to engage this community and to provide the needed resources to aid in the success of the UNM campus.

For more information on this meeting, contact Rachel Stone at (505) 277-7831 or racheld@unm.edu.

Are you eligible for the Saver's Tax Credit?

For those who, last year, earned \$30,750 or less if single, or \$61,500 or less if married and filing jointly— there's a special tax credit to help save for retirement.

The [saver's credit](#), officially known as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, can offset up to half of the first \$2,000 (for individual tax filers) or \$4,000 (married, filing jointly) that workers contribute to a 401(k), 403(b) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan or to an individual retirement account (IRA).

"The saver's credit is in addition to the tax benefits of contributing pretax dollars to retirement plans. Because this double benefit sounds too good to be true, many eligible savers may be confusing the two incentives," said Catherine Collinson, president of the Los Angeles-based Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies, a nonprofit research institute funded by Transamerica Life Insurance Co.

"Many eligible employees may be missing out on the saver's credit when filing their tax returns, including workers who have saved in a 401(k) or similar plan" last year, Collinson added. "Other workers might have saved had they known about it. But the good news is that it's not too late to contribute to an IRA and claim the saver's credit for 2016. They have until April 17, 2017, to do so," since April 15—the traditional tax filing deadline—falls on a Saturday this year.

To read more and determine eligibility, [click here!](#)

March Financial Wellness Events

Are you and loved ones financially secure?
 Want to improve your ability to save & invest wisely?
 Hoping retirement will be comfortable?
2017 FINANCIAL FITNESS FORUM
 (Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond....)

Attend one or more sessions to learn smarter money moves, improve overall financial security, and be better prepared for retirement.

**Not available to Student Employees*

Financial services representatives and financial advisors who provide UNM's 403(b) and 457(b) voluntary retirement plans will be on site for two days presenting educational seminars on topics such as:

- Budgeting, Debt, and Credit Management
- Smart Money Moves in Your 20s and 30s
- Smart Money Moves in your 40s, 50s, and Beyond
- Investing Basics
- Confident Investing in Any Market
- Retirement Planning
- Your 403(b) and 457(b) Retirement Plans
- Managing Financial Risks
- Saving for College
- Tax Strategies
- Retirement Income Planning
- Social Security Planning
- Estates, Wills, Trusts, and Legacy Planning
- Sandwich Generation Planning for those with aging parents

*Attend a session virtually from your desktop or smart device!
 Skype Meeting and Webcast links to selected sessions coming soon.*

Tuesday, March 21, 2017
 Domenici West Atrium and
 Domenici Center/HSLIC
 Conference Rooms

Wednesday, March 22, 2017
 Student Union Building (SUB)
 Lower Atrium and 3rd Floor
 Conference Rooms

Questions? Contact the HR Service Center at 505-277-6947

Make Progress On Your Future Today!



Make Progress on Your Future... Today!

The 2017 Financial Fitness Forum will help you learn how to improve your financial security! Workshop-style financial education sessions will be offered throughout each day. 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 faculty and staff are encouraged to pick and choose, in order to attend one or more of these informative seminars.

For more information, please see the [detailed Forum Schedule](#).

Brought to you by HR Benefits.

Thrive Thursday/Financial Friday Seminars

Does applying for a mortgage loan seem like a challenge? And, is debt consolidation for you? The March Thrive Thursday / Financial Friday seminars provide a step-by-step process for preparing to approach a lender. Calculate your debt-to-income ratio, determine an achievable payment, and understand how debt consolidation can be used as a financial strategy. Apply for a mortgage loan with confidence!

The March sessions are from 12:00 – 1:00 pm on Thursday, March 23 (Main Campus, Business Center, EOD 1016) and Friday, March 24 (North Campus, Domenici West Room B116). For information, participant resources, and Skype or webinar access from your desktop or smart phone, visit the [Financial Wellness Program](#) website or call the HR Service Center at 505-277-MyHR (6947).

We are here to support your personal goals in 2017! *Brought to you by HR Benefits.*

What is Rocky Mountain APPA?

Every staff member of PPD is a member of [Rocky Mountain APPA \(RMA\)](#) and the national organization, [APPA Leadership in Educational Facilities](#). This professional organization promotes the common interests of planning, maintenance, and operations of facilities management within educational institutions. RMA fosters a professional spirit among those engaged in this field of work offering a wide variety of professional development and an award-winning mentorship program called the [14ers Club](#).

RMA includes the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, the Canadian Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. In 2013, the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Durango, Nayarit, Sinaloa, and Sonora became members of the RMA.

For more information about the RMA, [click here](#).



The 2nd Annual
Stadium Stair Challenge
All Fitness Levels Welcome!



Saturday, April 29, 2017
9:00 am
University Stadium

\$80 for Training & Challenge*
\$40 for Challenge Only

Register Online hr.unm.edu/ssc
Register before April 7 to get a t-shirt in your size!

*UNM Tuition Remission Eligible

UNM Employee Health Promotion | hr.unm.edu/ehp | 505-272-4460

Staff as Students

The Staff Council Student Success Committee is hosting the bi-annual Staff as Students event on Monday, April 10th from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in the SUB Ballrooms A & B. This is an event where the registration process is made available to staff before it is opened up to other students at UNM. This allows for the opportunity to register early and speak with advisors from specific academic departments. Come learn about the Education Benefit Program and how to take advantage of it to develop both academically and professionally. Representatives from Admissions, the Bursar's Office, The Office of the Registrar, and many academic advisors from various colleges/schools/departments will be on hand to talk one-on-one. Also, register for academic, professional development, and personal enrichment classes.

Please visit the [Staff Council website](http://staffcouncil.unm.edu) (staffcouncil.unm.edu) for more information.

If anyone has any questions, please call Mary Clark at 277-1142 or call the Staff Council Office at 277-1532.



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ppd.unm.edu

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.