MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Chair, Mechanical Engineering

Leadership Profile

2025

WittKieffer

Executive Summary

University of New Mexico School of Engineering seeks a dynamic, innovative, and personable leader who can guide the Mechanical Engineering department to a higher level of excellence. The Chair will report to the Dean of the School of Engineering, Donna Riley.

The University of New Mexico was founded in 1889 as New Mexico's flagship institution. The University a R1 institution and offers various academic programs through 14 colleges and schools. These academic options include more than 215 degree and certificate programs, including 94 baccalaureates, 71 master's, and 37 doctoral degrees. UNM is a Hispanic Serving Institution that takes pride in the extraordinary diversity of its students and in providing opportunities for students, regardless of socioeconomic background. UNM has 4 branch campuses across the state, which provide academic and vocational training, leading to certificates, associate degrees, and transfers to baccalaureate programs. The University enrolls over 26,000 students and employs over 10,000 faculty and staff.

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering, originally known as the College of Engineering, opened in 1906 with a faculty of two and a single classroom. With time, advances in technology, social change, and the dedication and foresight of many talented people, the School has become a leader in education and research in engineering and computer science. The School programs include chemical and biological engineering, civil, construction, and environmental engineering; computer science, electrical and computer engineering; mechanical engineering; and nuclear engineering. The School benefits from robust partnerships with national labs, including Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, which provide strong research collaborations and offers students excellent internship and career opportunities. UNM also provides an excellent entrepreneurial ecosystem to translate intellectual property into business.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, which commenced its operation in 1931, is committed to excellence in both undergraduate and graduate education offering BS (ABET accredited), MS, and PhD degree programs. A team of 15 full-time faculty, several research and part-time faculty, three technical staff, and five professional staff support the activities of over 500 undergraduate students and more than 100 graduate students. The department's research, educational, and outreach programs are enhanced through participation in interdisciplinary programs and research centers on campus and through strong ties and collaborations with the neighboring national laboratories (Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory). In addition, the Department's fully online master's curriculum in Space Systems Engineering, is one of the first of its kind in the country. The Department also supports the Mechanical Engineering (BSME) program on the UNM-LA campus in collaboration with the Los Alamos National Laboratory.

The ME Chair will report directly to the dean and be an integral and vital part of the School's leadership team. As the department's academic and administrative leader, the ME Chair is responsible for all education, faculty, research, and service activities across Mechanical Engineering. The Chair oversees the department's operations and budget, manages resources strategically and responsibly, and works with the Dean to encourage philanthropic engagement and support. Toward that end, the ME Chair will be expected to improve Student Success pathways; develop faculty and staff, build a culture of equity and inclusive excellence, grow research and innovation, and develop and expand partnerships.

An earned doctorate in mechanical engineering or a related field is required, as is a record of scholarly achievement meriting appointment as a tenured full professor. A demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and student success, as well as working with broadly diverse communities, is also required. Prior administrative and management experiences are required, as well as a demonstrated commitment to collaborative leadership and a strong track record of impactful research and excellence in teaching.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in this position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of this document.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

Chair, Mechanical Engineering will report directly to the dean and be an integral and vital part of the School's leadership team. The Chair is responsible for further strengthening the department's leadership in research and education and contributing to the success of the School's strategic plan.

As the department’s academic and administrative leader, the Chair is responsible for all education, faculty, research, and service activities across Mechanical Engineering. The Chair oversees the department’s operations and budget, manages resources strategically and responsibly, and works with the Dean to encourage philanthropic engagement and support. Toward that end, the Chair, Mechanical Engineering will be expected to:

Improve Student Success Pathways

The Chair will motivate and equip faculty to implement proven practices for student success, including enhancing student support structure across teams, including advisors, faculty, and support staff. The Chair will be expected to increase retention and reduce time leading to a degree by reimagining curriculum pathways, critical degree paths, and recovery courses. The Chair will ensure the department provides meaningful experiences for all students, including first-year experiences and high-impact course environments, incorporating experiential and community-engaged opportunities for all students.

Develop Faculty and Staff

The Chair must place a high priority on the recruitment, retention, mentorship, and development of faculty as fully and equitably as possible. They will seek to diversify the faculty and strengthen the department's impact and reputation. The new leader will ensure that all faculty and staff have the support, resources, and infrastructure they need to thrive with attention to their professional goals, professional development opportunities, and physical and mental wellness. It will be imperative that the next leader brings strength in communication and interpersonal skills in order to build consensus and create an environment where faculty and staff feel connected to the Department’s mission, supported and valued and optimistic about achieving their professional and personal goals. It is expected that the Chair will prioritize activities to support the retention of faculty and staff, expand the Department workforce, and improve work conditions.

Build a Culture of Equity and Inclusive Excellence

The University of New Mexico and the College of Engineering are committed to a culture of community, respect, civility, and belonging for all faculty, staff, and students. The chair will be expected to enhance equity in student success by sharing student success data and strengthening ties between the Engineering Student Success Center, advising staff, and faculty. In addition, the chair will motivate and equip faculty to deploy proven equity-enhancing practices in their teaching, mentoring, and research.

Faculty and staff equity and inclusion are also of paramount importance. The next chair must inspire and motivate the department around a vision for a more equitable and inclusive community while recruiting and retaining a talented and increasingly diverse faculty, staff, and student body. They must ensure a healthy and productive work environment and organizational culture of openness, fairness, and transparency that celebrates diversity of thought and expression and promotes an environment of inclusion. The Chair will develop policies, processes, and practices supporting accountability for equity, ensure a welcoming space that inspires faculty, staff, and students to achieve excellence and build a community where everyone can thrive.

Grow Research and Innovation

The School of Engineering is distinguished by its ambitious faculty and impactful research. Mechanical Engineering faculty bring in over $10 million in support of their research annually. The department's research excellence is built on a highly interdisciplinary and collaborative approach. The new Chair will i) work to ensure that all faculty have adequate facilities to fulfill obligations of supported research projects, ii) catalyze and support new collaborative opportunities that will benefit the department's educational and research programs, including cross-department collaboration within the School, and strong relationships with nearby national laboratories, and iii) look for possibilities to enhance educational facilities. The Chair will ensure the infrastructure is in place and faculty are hired and supported to grow and sustain the department's momentum and excellence. Other areas identified for growth and investment include strengthening activities, support, tracking, reward structure, and recognition related to project management, research advisement, scholarship, entrepreneurship, innovation, community-engaged research, and economic development.

Develop and Expand Partnerships

The Chair will be an active, enthusiastic, and successful relationship builder with the demonstrated ability to draw upon these relationships to benefit the Department and the School. The Chair will serve as a compelling advocate and spokesperson for the Department to alumni, donors, and other external audiences. Through departmental activities, the Chair will:

- Improve pathways to UNM by strengthening community college and K-12 partnerships.
- Develop partnerships for community engagement, public service, and the arts in New Mexico.
- Grow strategic partnerships with industry, government labs, and the state's entrepreneurship and economic development ecosystem.
- Strengthen on-campus partnerships (e.g., with the Global Education Office, interdisciplinary programs, and other colleges and schools around campus).

Grow and Manage Resources

Part of the School of Engineering's strategic roadmap is to increase enrollment by 20% over the next five years by increasing the number of faculty, staff, and students, advancing New Mexico’s technical workforce and economic development. The next Chair will lead the department by optimizing the use of existing resources and aligning transparent resource allocation and incentives with the School of Engineering's goals and priorities. This includes analyses of physical space, equipment, facilities, administration funds, financial reserves, and building/equipment repair/remodeling and maintenance costs and schedules.

Working closely with the School’s leadership, the Chair will continue to develop the donor base to build a culture of philanthropy in the School of Engineering. The development directors will guide the Chair in working with donors and alumni to invigorate existing supporters and cultivate new supporters, including faculty and staff. The Chair will be an outstanding communicator and inspire alumni and industrial partners to invest in the department's vision and impact.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

The University of New Mexico, School of Engineering, seeks a Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering who has the leadership and managerial capacity to develop and implement a strategic vision for the department that fosters innovation and growth in both research and education. The successful candidate will bring the following background, skills, and qualities.

- A doctorate in mechanical engineering or a related field is required, a record of tenure-tracked and tenured positions, and a record of scholarly achievement meriting appointment as a tenured full professor;
- Demonstrate commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and student success, as well as working with broadly diverse communities;
- Prior administrative and project management experiences are required, as well as a demonstrated commitment to collaborative leadership and a strong track record of impactful research and excellence in teaching;
- Commitment to lead the department with transparency and collegiality. Experience in developing and executing a compelling strategic vision and plan in an academic setting or a similar context; the ability to inspire key constituencies in support of the department's priorities;
- Ability to catalyze, support, and nurture interdisciplinary collaboration and capitalize on novel opportunities;
- Enthusiasm for forging new opportunities for industry partnerships, sponsored research, and alumni engagement and philanthropic support;
- Commitment to interdisciplinary, collaborative, and entrepreneurial activities as well as wide-ranging intellectual interests;
- Strong relationship-building, interpersonal, and communication skills; the ability to engage and mentor faculty, staff, and students and to work effectively across the campus and with external groups;
- An understanding of and ability to articulate the unique nature of the department and its degree programs and requirements; an appreciation for the breadth and depth of interdisciplinary research conducted by its faculty; and
- Personal qualities that include collaboration, transparency, intelligence, vision, compassion, courage, humor, and unquestionable ethics and integrity.

Department of Mechanical Engineering

The Department of Mechanical Engineering, which commenced its operation in 1931, is committed to excellence in both undergraduate and graduate education offering BS (ABET accredited), MS, and PhD degree programs. A team of 15 full-time faculty, several research and part-time faculty, three technical staff, and five professional staff support the activities of over 500 undergraduate students and more than 100 graduate students. In addition, the Department's fully online master's program in Space Systems Engineering, one of the first master's level space systems engineering programs in the country. The Department also supports the Mechanical Engineering (BSME) program on the UNM-LA campus in collaboration with the Los Alamon National Laboratory.

The department's research, educational, and outreach programs are enhanced through participation in interdisciplinary research programs and centers on the UNM campus and through strong ties and collaborations with the neighboring national laboratories (Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Air Force Research Laboratory). UNM also provides an excellent entrepreneurial ecosystem to translate intellectual property into business.

Faculty and Staff Breakdown

6 full professors

1 associate professor

7 assistant professors

2 non-tenure teaching lecturers

11 staff members

Degree Programs

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (BSME):

The undergraduate program provides graduates with the necessary skills to compete in this rapidly changing discipline. The BSME provides a solid scientific foundation for other degrees such as the MBA, MD, DDS, etc. Students can work on energy and transportation projects ranging from FSAE racecars and solar-powered boats (Solar Splash) to rocket launches, and from building efficiency to alternative energy systems.

The Mechanical Engineering building is an energy conservation lab designed by UNM faculty and students. The building offers hands-on lessons in the mechanics of thermal storage, energy efficiency, smart grid technology, and more.

Minor in Mechanical Engineering:

This minor provides current UNM Engineering students or other UNM science-oriented students with a holistic view of engineering and technology beyond the boundaries of just their current major.

Shared Credits Degree Program (BS/MS):

The School of Engineering offers a Shared Credit Degrees Program designed to allow students to complete BS and MS degrees in five years (depending on the student's mathematics preparation upon entering UNM as a first-year undergraduate student). To accomplish this, some courses are counted towards both the bachelor's and master's degrees. The Department of Mechanical Engineering allows up to 12 credit hours of undergraduate electives to be replaced by 500-level graduate courses that count towards both degrees.

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering (MSME):

The graduate programs offered in the department are designed to prepare graduates for professional engineering work in private industry, governmental laboratories, or teaching/research positions. The focus is on the fundamental concepts in the selected research area, with elective and supporting work to complete the study program.

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in Space Systems (online):

This is a fully online master's curriculum in space systems engineering, of the first of its kind in the country. The Space Systems Engineering concentration was developed with input from the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) Space Vehicles Directorate to provide graduates with the advanced skills to further their careers in the aerospace industry.

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD):

Admission to the PhD program requires that the applicant has earned an appropriate MS degree and has demonstrated a high potential for research and graduate studies. The evidence of such achievement is, for example, publications in archival journals based on the applicant's Master's thesis work. Exceptional students may pursue a PhD without first earning an MS.

Research Areas

Thermal & Fluid Systems

- Computational fluid dynamics and turbulence flows
- Hydrodynamic instabilities; multiphase flows; shock-accelerated flows
- Advanced flow field measurement techniques, high-performance computing
- Modeling and simulation of race car performance

Space Engineering

- Aerodynamics
- Thermal control of space vehicles
- Aerospace propulsion
- Dynamics & Control
- Dynamics and controls of complex dynamical networks
- Orbital mechanics
- Spacecraft dynamics, maneuvers, guidance, navigation, and control
- Robotics and autonomous systems

Materials & Solid Mechanics

- Additive manufacturing
- Composite materials, smart materials, and nanostructured materials
- Materials for energy storage and conversion
- Multi-scale mechanics of materials
- Advanced materials development

Renewable Energies

- Renewable energy integration and power transmission
- Solar, wind, and ocean energy
- Management and control of distributed energy systems and microgrid
- Electrochemical energy conversion and storage systems: fuel cells, batteries, and supercapacitors

Microsystems Engineering

- Design, fabrication, and characterization of MEMS and nanodevices
- Mechanical integrity of microelectronic devices and packages
- Micro-devices for energy harvesting
- Acoustic resonators

Bioengineering

- Biomechanics
- Bio-MEMS
- Atomizer technology
- Autophagy dynamics

Enrollment (Fall 2024)

Undergraduate: 600

Master's: 64

Ph.D.: 19

Degrees Awarded (2023-2024)

Undergraduate: 64

Masters: 45

Ph.D.: 4

Diversity and Support

The department prides itself on fostering a multicultural environment that enriches every program. Students develop a breadth of concepts and thinking from cultural diversity and the department cultivates a community in which all students, faculty, and staff are welcome, respected, and recognized for their unique contributions. UNM students come from all reaches of the globe and bring unique experiences and backgrounds that strengthen the Department.

School of Engineering students represent varied cultural, academic, and ethnic backgrounds. Many are the first in their families to pursue a college education. They range from traditional students to employed professionals returning to complete their education. They come from various locations, pueblos, and rural areas in New Mexico, small and large cities throughout the US, and other countries.

The Engineering Student Success Center in the School of Engineering provides wrap-around student support services, including outreach activities with pre-college students, recruitment of pre-college and transfer students, bridge programs for incoming students, tutoring, professional development workshops, and other academic support for current students, engineering student organization support, and connections to internships and job placement.

School of Engineering

The University of New Mexico School of Engineering, originally known as the College of Engineering, opened in 1906 with a faculty of two and a single classroom. With time, advances in technology, social change, and the dedication and foresight of many talented people, the School has become a leader in education and research in engineering as well as computer science. The UNM School of Engineering is the highest-ranked engineering program in New Mexico and the only Carnegie R1 (highest research activity) university in the state, putting it in the same class as MIT, Stanford, Purdue, and other well-respected engineering programs in the country. UNM is a member of the Sandia Academic Alliance, along with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Texas at Austin, Purdue, and Georgia Tech.

The School benefits from robust partnerships with national labs, including Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, which provide strong research collaborations and offers students excellent internship and career opportunities.

Learn more at www.engineering.unm.edu.

Vision

The School of Engineering is the vanguard for inclusive excellence, where everyone belongs, thrives, and shines. Through research, learning, and innovation, we serve the land and its people, transforming lives and communities in New Mexico and beyond.

Mission

The School of Engineering provides accessible pathways and experiential learning opportunities to prepare a diverse, imaginative, and responsible engineering, computer science, and construction management workforce.

We conduct research with global impact that fosters healthy, resilient, and secure communities.

We leverage excellence across disciplines on our flagship campus and creative partnerships with government, industry, and local communities to realize impact, enhance economic development, and improve quality of life.

Strategic Roadmap: Our Path Forward

Beginning in spring 2023, Dean Donna Riley conducted a series of listening sessions with faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other key stakeholders. That listening tour produced a situation analysis that identified and clarified the School's strengths and opportunities. The strategic roadmap, Our Path Forward, identifies six goals that provide a framework for the School for 2024-2028.

- Goal One: Improve Student Success Pathways
- Goal Two: Develop Faculty and Staff
- Goal Three: Build a Culture of Equity and Inclusive Excellence
- Goal Four: Grow Research and Innovation
- Goal Five: Develop and Expand Partnerships
- Goal Six: Grow and Manage Resources

Rankings

- No. 86 in Best Overall Graduate Program (U.S. News & World Report 2023)
- No. 61 in Best Online Graduate Engineering Programs (U.S. News & World Report 2022)
- No. 90 in Best Undergraduate Programs in Engineering (U.S. News & World Report 2021)
- No. 18 in the nation as the "Best Value" Engineering School (Best Value Schools, 2018)
- No. 1 No. 2 in Impact of Innovation for mid-sized Research Universities (2020 George W. Bush institution and Opus Faveo Innovation Development poll)
- No. 16 in the Top 100 U.S. Universities granted utility patents in 2023 (National Academy of Inventors)
- No. 1 in economic diversity among state flagships (New York Times, 2023)

Departments

- Chemical and Biological Engineering
- Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering

Bachelor's degree programs

- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Construction Engineering
- Construction Management
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering

All programs are accredited by ABET

Graduate programs

- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science
- Construction Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Nanoscience & Microsystems Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering
- Optical Science & Engineering

School of Engineering Research Centers

The School of Engineering has a long history of research that addresses global challenges. Currently, three School-level research centers focus on everything from the environment to space.

- Center for Water and the Environment: Conduct cutting-edge research into technological and engineering-based solutions to problems with water and the environment in a framework that considers the social, economic, policy, regulatory, and legal implications.
- COSMIAC (Configurable Space Microsystems Innovations & Applications Center): A space-related research center that promotes aerospace innovation through configurable technology, serving the interests of industry, government, and academia.
- Manufacturing Training and Technology Center: Supports teaching, training, research and development, start-up companies, manufacturing prototyping, and extension-service activities. Features a 6,200-square-foot cleanroom, prototyping bays, CAD rooms, and other high-tech facilities that support research, academics, and workforce readiness for students.

The School also collaborates closely with five university-level centers and institutes:

- Center for High Technology Materials
- Center for Microengineered Materials
- Center for Advanced Research Computing
- Center for Accelerating Resilience Innovations in Drylands
- Quantum New Mexico Institute

Research Areas

Research is a fundamental element that is integrated into virtually every program at the School of Engineering and is the basis for graduate degrees as well as a growing number of undergraduate degree programs.

The University of New Mexico is the only university in the state ranked a “Research University/Very High Research Activity” by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. This status confirms a university’s world-class research, academic excellence, exceptional student body, and highest levels of innovation, creativity, and scholarship.

The School of Engineering has a wide variety of research interests that involve students as well as state-of-the-art facilities on the UNM campus and with nearby partners at Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and the Air Force Research Laboratory, as well as industries and universities worldwide.

UNM’s School of Engineering research activities are aligned with many of the grand challenges outlined by the National Academy of Engineering as well as the major clusters for support identified by the New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD). Read the NMEDD report here.

Sandia University Partnerships Network

Sandia University Partnerships Network facilitates multi-faceted opportunities with key academic institutions across the nation. Partnering strategically with these universities enables the creation and growth of research and development capabilities and enhances the trajectory of the scientific landscape. Faculty at network universities engage tightly with Sandia and grow their professional network with other leading-edge researchers. This strong partnership with Sandia enables faculty to gain exposure to the many Sandia mission areas, enhance the

educational experience of their students, and connect them to internship and postdoctoral opportunities at the nation's premier science and engineering laboratory.

Enrollment: Fall 2024

Undergraduate: 2,267

Master's: 395

Ph.D.: 369

View more enrollment data here.

Degrees Awarded: 2023-2024

Undergraduate: 230

Master's: 202

Ph.D.: 46

View more degree data here.

At a Glance

95 tenured and tenure-track faculty
Over $53 million research expenditures- FY24

Leadership

Dean Donna Riley

Donna Riley is a leader in engineering education and inclusive excellence. She was a founding faculty member of the Picker Engineering Program at Smith College, the first engineering program at a U.S. women's college, where she spent 13 years. In 2005, she received a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award for developing critical pedagogies for engineering classroom implementations. She is a fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and was elected vice president of scholarship for ASEE in 2023.
Before joining UNM, she was the Kamyar Haghighi Head and Professor in the School of Engineering Education and Professor by courtesy in Environmental and Ecological Engineering at Purdue University. Previously, she was professor and interim head in the Department of Engineering Education at Virginia Tech. From 2013-2015 she was program director for engineering education at the NSF.

Riley is the author of two books, Engineering and Social Justice and Engineering Thermodynamics and 21st Century Energy Problems. She is the recipient of the 2016 Alfred N. Goldsmith Award from the IEEE Professional Communications Society, the 2012 Sterling Olmsted Award from ASEE, and the 2010 Educator of the Year award from Out to Innovate.

Riley earned her B.S.E. in chemical engineering from Princeton University, a M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Carnegie Mellon University in engineering and public policy.

Interim Provost Rodriguez

Rodriguez has been senior vice provost since 2018, overseeing faculty personnel matters, including tenure and promotion; faculty labor relations; and academic policies and procedures. She is also a professor of speech and hearing sciences at UNM and was chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences from 2012 to 2018.

Rodriguez became a UNM faculty member in 1999. She previously was a bilingual clinician throughout New Mexico, including in K-12 public education settings, and directed the UNM Speech Language and Hearing Clinic from 1992-1994.

She earned both her Bachelor of Arts in Communicative Disorders and master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology at UNM and her Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Washington.

The University and Community

Overview

Founded in 1889 as New Mexico's flagship institution, with a total enrollment of over 26,000 students (44 percent Hispanic and 14 percent Native American) across multiple campuses, the University of New Mexico now occupies nearly 800 acres near old Route 66 in the heart of Albuquerque, a city of more than 900,000 people. From the magnificent mesas to the west, past the banks of the historic Rio Grande to the Sandia Mountains to the east, Albuquerque is a blend of culture and cuisine, styles and stories, people, pursuits, and panoramas.

The University has branch campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos, and Valencia County, plus an HSC extension campus in Rio Rancho, also home to the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center. UNM's libraries, museums, galleries, and performance spaces are rich cultural resources for the state. UNM is a federally designated Hispanic-serving institution.

As a Minority Serving Institution, the University represents a cross-section of cultures and backgrounds. In the Spring of 2023, more than 24,000 students attended the main, branch, and HSC campuses and education centers.

UNM boasts an outstanding faculty that has included four National Academy of Sciences/ Engineering Members, six National Academy of Inventors Fellows, 60+ Fulbright scholar program awardees, and several fellows of national and international associations and societies. Faculty publish in major refereed professional journals, including The New England Journal of Medicine, American Historical Review, and Nature, and with top-tier academic presses such as the University of Chicago Press and Cambridge University Press. As publicly oriented scholars, UNM professors share their expertise in local and national media outlets from The Albuquerque Journal to The New Yorker.

UNM is the largest academic employer in the state, including employees of University Hospitals. It has more than 200,000 alumni with Lobos in every state and more than 2,400 alumni outside the U.S.

Vision

Be a global leader in realizing human potential, addressing critical community challenges, and demonstrating the power of inclusive diversity.

Mission

As the state's premier institution of higher learning and provider of health care, the University of New Mexico promotes discovery, generates intellectual and cultural contributions, honors academic values, and fosters an educated, healthy, and economically vigorous New Mexico.

Values

- **Excellence**: The University of New Mexico values excellence in all work and strives to perform and achieve at the highest levels.
- **Inclusion:** The University of New Mexico respects and celebrates the differences of all persons and values working in a collaborative environment where diversity is cherished and there is a shared sense of belonging.
- **Environment:** The University of New Mexico is dedicated to the protection of the planet to ensure the health, well-being, and success of future generations.
- **Integrity**: The University of New Mexico values fairness, honesty, and transparency and are good stewards of the resources given to them.
- **Place:** The University of New Mexico is dedicated to the peoples and places of New Mexico even as they reach for global impact for the benefit of all humanity.

Academics

The University has branch campuses in Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos, and Valencia County, plus an HSC extension campus in Rio Rancho, also home to the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center. UNM's libraries, museums, galleries, and performance spaces are rich cultural resources for the state. UNM is a federally designated Hispanic-serving institution.

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UNM offers 94 baccalaureates, 71 masters, and 37 doctoral degrees. Home to the Lobos and contenders in the Mountain West Conference, UNM athletics draw fans from all over. The University Arena,, or "The Pit," is one of college basketball's most famous and recognizable buildings. The Pit was ranked 5th by the Travel Channel as one of the best college basketball venues.

UNM is a place where cutting-edge research and creative endeavors flourish. As a very high research activity (R1) institution, UNM research injects millions of dollars into New Mexico's economy, funds new advancements in health care, and augments teaching—giving students valuable hands-on training in state-of-the-art laboratories.

As an academic institution, UNM is ranked nationally as a "Top Public School", "Best Global University", and "Best National University" and the highest ranked for each within New Mexico.

UNM Health Sciences Center is the state's largest integrated healthcare treatment, research, and education organization. In 2022, U.S. News and World Report ranked the UNM School of Medicine 16th nationally in "2023 Best Medical Schools: Primary Care", 5th in "Most Diverse Medical Schools" and 7th in "Best Family Medicine Programs". UNM's nursing-midwifery program ranks 11th nationally for "Best Midwifery Program" and UNM's bachelor of science in nursing is also recognized as the 67th best in the nation, placing it in the top 10% of ranked BSN programs. UNM College of Pharmacy ranks 43rd nationally for "Best Pharmacy Schools".

The UNM School of Engineering has been designated among the top 100 "Best Engineering Schools" and has six top 100 national rankings for programs including Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Nuclear Engineering. UNM School of Law has been ranked 8th in "Best Clinical Training Law Programs" and in the top 5% nationally for this recognition. The photography program at UNM College of Fine Arts is ranked 8th in the nation for "Best Photography Schools" and ranks within the top 30% of "Best Art Schools" across the U.S. At UNM College of Arts & Sciences13 programs rank in the top 100 in the nation—including Sociology, Biology, History, and Earth Sciences.

Among the University's many outstanding research units is the Center for Advanced Research Computing, Comprehensive Cancer Center, COSMIAC, Center for High Technology Materials, Design Planning Assistance Center, Innovation Academy, Center for Quantum Information & Control, and the Mind Research Network—to name a few.

UNM 2040: Strategic Framework

The University of New Mexico has crafted a multiyear plan to build the future of UNM. This plan provides both a vision for the future and a set of more immediate tasks designed to move UNM toward that vision. Learn more about the strategic framework here.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Albuquerque's affordable living, diverse dining scene, outdoor recreational activities, accessible day trips, and wellness options create a compelling environment for those seeking a balanced and engaging lifestyle. The city's cost of living is 4% lower than the national average, a benefit that extends to housing, where the median home price remains attractively below the U.S. average. This economic advantage is coupled with lower property and state income taxes, making Albuquerque an appealing place for professionals seeking a high quality of life without the high costs.

The culinary landscape in Albuquerque is a tapestry of flavors deeply influenced by Indigenous, New Mexican, and Spanish cuisines. Dining out can range from sampling the famed New Mexico chile in red and green varieties to exploring innovative dishes at upscale restaurants. The city's love for its unique culinary culture is evident in its numerous food festivals and markets, offering an endless array of dining experiences.

For outdoor enthusiasts, Albuquerque's proximity to ski resorts, such as the nearby Sandia Mountains, provides a winter playground for all ages. The skiing opportunities here cater to both beginners and seasoned enthusiasts, making it a perfect family outing. Beyond the slopes, the city's numerous parks, bike trails, and the Rio Grande provide endless outdoor activities, from picnics to kayaking, fostering a healthy, active lifestyle.

Albuquerque is ideally located for memorable day trips. Destinations such as Santa Fe, with its historic adobe landmarks and vibrant arts scene, and the Jemez Springs area, known for its natural hot springs and beautiful mountain scenery, are within easy reach. These excursions provide a refreshing break from the urban environment and an opportunity to immerse oneself in the natural and cultural richness of New Mexico.

Destinations like the Petroglyph National Monument offer a glimpse into ancient history, while the Bandelier National Monument and the Valles Caldera National Preserve allow visitors to explore stunning natural landscapes and learn about the region's cultural heritage.

Wellness and relaxation are also a cornerstone of the Albuquerque experience, with a selection of spas that leverage the tranquil desert setting to provide a serene retreat. From luxury spa resorts offering a full range of treatments to more intimate settings incorporating traditional Native American healing techniques, there are ample opportunities for rejuvenation.

For more information, please visit https://www.visitalbuquerque.org/ or https://www.newmexico.org/.

Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations, and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting the University of New Mexico in this search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by **September 4, 2025.**

Application materials, nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

Jessica Herrington and Corin Edwards

UNMChairME@wittkieffer.com

The University of New Mexico is committed to hiring and retaining a diverse workforce. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer, making decisions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, or any other protected class.

The University of New Mexico requires all regular staff positions successfully pass a pre-employment background check. This may include, but is not limited to, a criminal history background check, New Mexico Department of Health fingerprint screening, New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department fingerprint screening, verification of education credentials, and/or verification of prior employment. For more information about background checks, visit https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/3000/3280.html. Refer to https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/3000/3200.html for a definition of Regular Staff.