



## Dates to Remember:

**October 3-9, 2011**  
Homecoming Week  
For complete schedule go to:  
<http://www.nmhu.edu/calendar.aspx>

**November 24 & 25:** Thanksgiving Holiday. Highlands Closed

**December 23 - January 3:**  
Winter Break. Highlands Closed

**January 16 :** Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. Highlands Closed

**Staff Advisory Senate Meetings:** Every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month

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# The Pony Express



Volume 3, Issue 1

July – September 2011

## SPOTLIGHT



First Row: Crystal Romero, Kristie Tapia, Louise CdeBaca, Ida Allemand, Brenda Bustamante, Margaret Lopez  
Second Row: Junko McDonald, Gayle Martinez, Dominic Chavez, Andrea Medina, Annette Martinez, Darlene Trujillo, Jesus Baquera. Not Pictured: Nesbitt Hagood and Eleanor Duran.

### A message from...

*Jesus Baquera, Assistant Controller*

It is the responsibility of the Business Office to assure compliance with all financial policies, rules and regulations adopted by the university or imposed by external agencies, including state and federal audit requirements, following generally accepted account practices. The Business Office consists of Student Accounts Receivables (Cashier Department), Accounts Payable and Accounting. Student Accounts Receivables is responsible for the collection function, cashiering and processing of financial aid disbursements. Accounts Payable is responsible for all non-payroll and non-financial aid disbursements. The Accounting Department is responsible for all central accounting functions for the university. We are here to assist the needs of the university and our staff is exceptional. They deserve a great big Thank You.



MVD is offering NMHU license plates and NMHU vanity license plates.

Support NMHU and get yours today!

### *Quotes to Live by:*

“Autumn is a second spring when a leaf is a flower.”  
- Albert Camus

*Or*

“To accomplish great things, we must dream as well as act.”  
- Anatole France



## *Look Who's New!* NEW HIRES

John Baldy, Visiting Professor of Psychology, Behavioral Science

Sara Brown, Assistant Professor of Forestry, Natural Resource Mgmt

Alessandra Calhoun, Clinical Therapist, Albuquerque Social Work

Sara Corey-Rivas, Visiting Assistant Professor, Biology

Ernestina Cruz, Assistant Professor of Political Science

Bethany Davila, Assistant Professor of English

Salvatore DeLuca, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood, Education

Donald Evans, Instructor of Speech and Theatre

Eric Johnson, Interim Assistant Athletic Trainer, Athletics

Shereen Kader, Assistant Professor of Early Childhood, Education

Geoffrey Kenmuir, Instructor of English

Taik Kim, Assistant Professor of Math, Education

Rae Ann Kumelos, Visiting Professor of English

Ivan Lucero, Custodian, Facilities Services

Ester OFearghail, Assistant Professor of Arts, Fine Arts

Yvette Pomponi, Interim Assistant Athletic Trainer, Athletics

Jane Quillien, Visiting Professor of Business

Alexander Romanov, Research Faculty, Chemistry

Ronald Romero, Interim Restaurant Manager, Golf Course

Jan Sheperd, Visiting Professor of Chemistry

Erin Shope, Evening Coordinator, Albuquerque Social Work

Cameron Summers, Instructor of English

Daniel Trujillo, General Maintenance, Facilities Services

Gilbert Vega, Security Officer, Campus Police

Diane Walker, Assistant Professor of Science Education

Melanie Zollner, Visiting Professor of Business

# DEPARTMENT NEWS

Who keeps Highlands' grounds looking their best? Grounds employees have been working diligently to improve the campus for students, staff, and faculty and they take pride in their work.

Overseeing these projects is Highlands' landscape specialist Gabriel Pacheco, and supervising the grounds crew is Gilbert Valdez. Grounds personnel include Jake Marquez, Robert Esquibel, Jeremiah Fresquez, Peter Trujillo, Roy Gonzales, Gerald Romero, Carmen Lopez, Daniel Trujillo, Shane Martinez, Chris Duran, Jose Lopez and Peter Delgado.

Thanks to all. Great Job!





LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. LEED is a guideline for green building practices that Highlands University aggressively began pursuing after receiving a mandate issued by the Governor's office a couple of years ago. Since, Facilities Services has received LEED Silver for Highlands' new residence hall, and is the first building to receive LEED Silver certification on the campus. NRH houses 276 students in 88 suites, and has two water harvesting systems, which feed the landscape through drip irrigation. NRH has a high energy, efficient heating and cooling system that allows the building to conserve energy. It is also monitored by tracer ES software, which allows Facilities Services project



managers to ensure NRH is running at an efficient level. Energy efficient lighting was installed, which allows for a wide range of lighting features, and operable windows were added to the design so indoor air quality could be adjusted by users. NRH is centrally located and has become a landmark for the campus, but more importantly, it is the building that spurred excitement for other LEED building practices across campus.

Felix Martinez is the university's first LEED Gold project. Being that Felix Martinez was not a new building, it was more challenging to achieve LEED Gold certification. The contractors on both Felix and NRH had to recycle 80% of their construction waste. At Felix Martinez, all non-load-bearing walls were removed and the space was reconfigured ergonomically for users. The daylight technology was also installed in this building to decrease energy usage from outdoor lighting. The heating and cooling systems are also monitored by the tracer ES software for energy efficiency. Felix Martinez also has a water harvesting system that feeds the xeriscaping through drip irrigation. This project allowed Highlands to redesign its surrounding landscape for more curb appeal at the Southeastern entrance of the campus.

We are projecting that Lora Shields and the natatorium will achieve Gold LEED status, as well. These buildings were recently remodeled. The new student union building is projected to achieve LEED Silver.

Highlands will have completed five LEED certified projects within five years with the completion of the SUB. Currently, there are a total of 79 LEED projects in the State of New Mexico, and Highlands proudly holds six percent of those LEED projects.



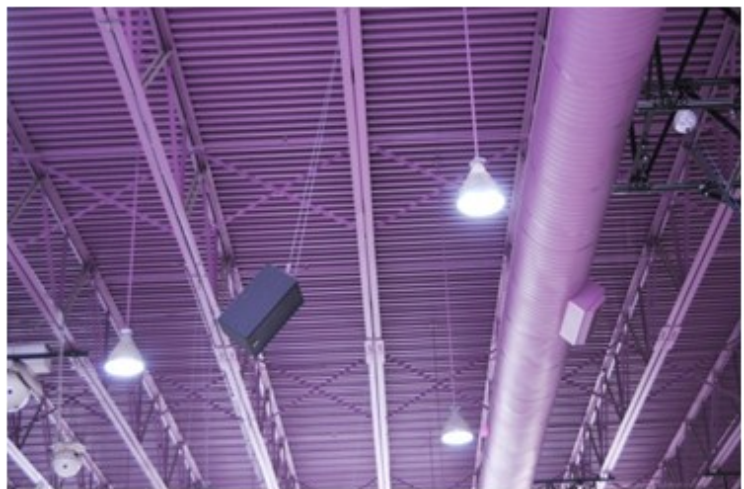
Highlands Facilities Services department recently retrofitted two of its major energy-consuming buildings, Wilson Athletic Complex and Donnelly Library, with LED bulbs. Both buildings were utilizing older light fixtures, leading to higher energy costs, uneven lighting, and complex maintenance challenges. Most of the bulbs at both buildings were replaced with LED bulbs resulting in a substantial increase in lumen output and quality.



Facilities management has commented that the former “high pressure, sodium lights” used to cost the university much more money through “peak metering” rates, but the new LED bulbs use 76% less energy, turn on instantly, and saves the electricians from the vertigo-inducing ordeal of replacing burned out bulbs and broken ballasts suspended 50 feet in the air over floors that can’t accommodate heavy-lift equipment.

**Eliminating Environmental Toxins in Education Facilities** LED bulbs eliminate the need for lighting ballasts which have recently been identified as an environmental challenge for many schools and businesses. Required to regulate the electric current in older high intensity discharge and fluorescent lights, ballasts can contain PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), which have been linked to cancer, impairment of immune and reproductive functions, other illnesses, as well as lower I.Q. levels. In December 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued recommendations urging schools across the country to replace all old light fixtures after schools in New York and Brooklyn were found to have levels of PCB contamination exceeding EPA health guidelines.

At Highlands, the Facilities Management team is monitoring the LED lighting retrofits to measure their effects on the reduction of utility costs and increased campus lighting quality, while eliminating the potential of PCB contamination. By installing LED lighting, educational institutions like Highlands are fulfilling their mission to inspire the next generation of environmental and business pioneers.



## Highlands' Rio Rancho Center



"The Rio Rancho Center offers teacher education, business, and social work programs at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Undergraduate students enter our programs at the Junior level, most transferring in from CNM, UNM, and Highlands main campus. The many offerings at the graduate level, allows students from every walk of life to continue or upgrade their education in a convenient location.

Our experienced staff is comprised of Joseph Valdez, librarian; Lupe Garcia, financial aid; Sylvia Nolasco, registrar, Laura LaCour-Johnson, recruiter/center specialist; Loretta Garcia, administrative assistant; Matt Seward, student coordinator, and Manuel Aragon; building maintenance.

Our Director/Associate Dean of Education, Dr. Kathy Jenkins, is spear-heading some great changes with other plans in the works. Within weeks we'll have a new Student Services area with all the students' needs serviced in one convenient place. It will have a lounge area for students as well as a receptionist to direct them to our various offices. In the not too distant future, we'll be seeing a welcomed building facelift and other changes at our center.

For more information about our programs and how to contact us, please visit [www.nmhu.edu/riorancho](http://www.nmhu.edu/riorancho)."

### "AIN'T NO STOPPING US NOW!"

It's not proper English but it is the title of a great song from back in the day, and I believe it could be the motto for the Rio Rancho Center's faculty and staff. We've grown every year and with new leadership; we are picking up steam and steadily moving forward.

Our director, Associate Dean of Education, Dr. Kathy Jenkins, is spearheading some great changes with other plans in the works. Within weeks we'll have a new student services area with all the students' needs serviced in one convenient place. It will have a lounge area for students as well as a receptionist to direct them to our various offices. In the not too distant future, we'll be seeing a welcomed building facelift and other changes at our center; more on that next time. Because we have one person in each position, all staff are being cross-trained to better serve our students and make their customer service experience at Highlands Rio Rancho optimal. If someone is out of the office, students' needs are still met, plus it's always good to learn something new. Speaking of students, we've welcomed many new and returning students to our center. Our classrooms are filled to capacity with graduate students as well as undergrads transferring from programs at CNM, UNM, or our main campus. They're keeping us quite busy and our faculty offices are filled to capacity. It's also nice to see faculty from the main campus traveling to our center to hold classes. Welcome! If you have family and/or friends in our area that would like to come back to school, please have them email me at [lajohnson@nmhu.edu](mailto:lajohnson@nmhu.edu); I'd be honored to help. We offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in teacher education and licensure, business and social work. You can find contact information on our webpage at [www.nmhu.edu/riorancho](http://www.nmhu.edu/riorancho).

Our next newsletter will include photos and news about our individual faculty and staff members. Until next time, if you're in the area, please stop by to say hello. We'd love to see you.

Have a blessed semester and remember that there "ain't no stopping us now!"

~Laura LaCour-Johnson, Recruiter and Center Specialist, on behalf of the faculty and staff of the Rio Rancho Center



Highlands took second place for organizational category in the Las Vegas Fiesta Parade. Participants included Chief Donato Sena, Jenny Arguello, LVPD chief Christian Montano and his cadets.

**Great Job!**

**Congratulations to Fidel Trujillo who will be getting honored with the TRIO Program for a TRIO Achiever in Oklahoma in November.** The TRIO Achiever Award will be presented by the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs at their annual conference. Dr. Trujillo was nominated by Roland Salas, director of Student Support Services at Highlands and president of the NM/West Texas Association of Student Assistance Programs, in recognition of his student participation in Student Support Services as an undergraduate in 1994-95, then a director of Upward Bound at UNM while completing his doctoral degree in Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies.

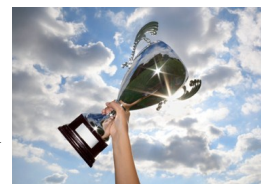


Photo Courtesy of the Athletic Dept.

We had our biggest soccer weekend (September 3-5) to begin the season. We hosted the third team in the nation, College of St Rose from New York, who flew in to play us for their top non-conference match-up of the year. They haven't lost a regular season game in three years and have won those games on average, 6-1.

Our young team hopes to make it to the NCAA tournament again this year. We would love the campus and community support as we're hoping to have a good turnout and results. High school teams and coaches from all over the state came in to see this team play in their first trip ever out west for a game. The game was Saturday, September 3rd in Perkins Stadium. We also played the University of the Sioux from S.D. on Labor Day.

Thanks for your support of Cowgirls Soccer!

## Staff Advisory Senate

Margaret Gonzales - President 454-3495  
 Thomasinia Ortiz-Gallegos - Vice President 454-3127  
 Dawn Martinez - Parliamentarian 454-3410  
 Lou Ann Romero - Secretary 454-3087  
 Alexis Duran - Treasurer 454-3315  
 Doris Gallegos - Member 454-3168  
 Richard Griego - Member 454-3260  
 Darlene R. Tapia - Member 454-3272  
 Vacant - Member  
 Vacant - Member

Please feel free to contact any of the above members directly or e-mail:  
[staffadvisorysenate@nmhu.edu](mailto:staffadvisorysenate@nmhu.edu)  
 with questions, comments, or general feedback.  
 Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you!

## Staff Senate Newsletter Committee

Darlene R. Tapia - Chair 454-3272  
 Doris Gallegos - Vice Chair 454-3168  
 Yvonne Duran - Member 454-3020  
 Carolina Martínez - Member 454-3269  
 Prescilla Ortega-Mathis - Member 454-3311  
 Wendy Quintana - Member 454-3387  
 Irene Romero - Member 454-3499

Please contact any of the above Newsletter Committee members with any ideas you would like to see in the next issue of "The Pony Express"

Be on the look out for our next quarterly issue at the end of October!