2019 Staff Council Grade Candidates

As stated in the Staff Council Constitution, the Council is composed of 60 elected representatives, with 30 from the various precincts (elected in even numbered years) and 30 from the various job grades (elected in odd numbered years). Ballot order was determined by random draw per the Staff Council Election Code. See below for candidate statements. Names are listed in the order in which they will appear on the voting ballot, which will be sent to your UNM email address. Election period begins Monday, March 25, 2019 and ends Friday, March 29, 2019, 5:00PM.

Grades 3 – 6 (2 seats)

No candidates. Write-in candidates are accepted on the election ballot.

Grade 7 (2 seats)

John Travis
My name is John Travis I am 54 and have been involved with the construction industry for 30 years as a tradesman and also a company owner. I began attending UNM at 46 and finished a degree in construction management. I am currently working on balancing classes for a degree in construction engineering and a degree in business management. I have been working for HSC/UNMCC for 6 months and currently still own a small local residential and commercial construction company.

Kristina Rucker
I have been employed with the university for almost 6 years now and don't see that changing anytime soon. I have served on Staff Council proudly for 3 of those years. I still love to help people and to feel like I can make a difference. Whether it's in the life of 1 or 100 people. I believe that what Staff Council does is such an important role in our employment life here at the university. It s a great place to work and grow, and through Staff Council, I would like to do my part in making it even better. Thank You. Kristina

Jenifer Andrews
I am the Administrative Assistant II for the Department of Art. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Art from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. I have worked in an administrative role for 25 years and have a background in theatre, costume design, gallery management and curating, as well as dance studio management. I have been working for the UNM Art Department for 7 months.

Tyson Eakman
UNM has been my home for the past 12 years and I am invested in insuring that all employees are being treated properly. I have served on Staff Council in the past and I am excited to get back into it. I work for Parking and Transportation in the business office. I am excited to represent not just Grade 7 but all UNM staff members.

Chelsey Begay
Ya’at’eeh, my name is Chelsey Begay. I am from the To’Hajiilee Navajo Reservation. Currently, I am the Administrative Assistant 2 for the Indigenous Design and Planning Institute–iD+Pi, housed in the School of Architecture and Planning-SAAP. I believe that programs and institutes like iD+Pi have the greatest potential to reach out to students, of all ages, and instill unto them the reality of healthy land-use and being proud of the rich culture and deep-rooted traditions of the communities that they come from. I am in my 2nd year of the Community and Regional Planning graduate program, Indigenous Planning concentration.
**Grade 8 (2 seats)**

Debra Sparks
Expert Admin III for Project ECHO in the Department of Administration, serving the Chief Administrative Officer. Attended school at University of Montana and UNM Robert Anderson School of Business earning a certificate in Human Resources Management. Have served Executives and presidents in the corporate world as Executive Assistant, Office Managers, Administrative Director, HR Generalist and have managed a special event consulting business in Montana for a number of years.

Athena Salazar
My name is Athena Salazar and I was born and raised in California; been in NM for 8 years as of January 1st 2019. Four years at UNMH and three years here at UNM. I consider myself full of spizzerinctum, intelligible, apropos and so much more. I would love the opportunity to be able to help make a difference for the better and leave my imprints on UNM. Sincerely, Athena Salazar

Harriet Engle
Harriet has been an Enrollment Services Rep at South Campus since September of 2017. Her interests include the Medieval Studies Student Association, UNM Hobbit Society, and performing with the Rio Grande Symphonic Band. She has a wide range of work experiences, and hopes to improve communications between Main and South Campuses.

Cassandra Burnett
I've been with the College of Nursing for 12 years now, and would be honored to represent my fellow Grade 8's once again on the UNM Staff Council. I take great pride in brainstorming ways to try to make my fellow staff jobs easier, and would love the opportunity to be able to lend my thoughts and ideas to the UNM staff as a collective. Perhaps, working with the other Representatives from across the institution, I can help bring about some positive change over the proposed service term.

Tabitha D. Thomas
I recently became a Lobo in October 2018 and have enjoyed all the interactions that I have encountered here on campus and activities/events that UNM sponsors. I want to engage more in the UNM community by contributing my experience as well as knowledge on the staff council. In my current role I oversee the administrative duties for not only the OVPR but also for FRDO and BBER. In my role I have organized meetings & events, training, completes payroll (2R & 5R), as well as miscellaneous fiscal duties. I hold my bachelors in Sociology from New Mexico State University and active in my community by volunteering my time at the Roadrunner Food Bank. I’m an advocate for vulnerable populations and have volunteered my time at La Casa (Domestic Violence Shelter in Las Cruces) as well as Jardin de Los Ninos (Child care for the homeless in Las Cruces). Thank you for taking the time to review my nomination.

Victoria Chavez
I am a new employee to UNM with 7 month of service. My goal is to absorb the UNM system to become a significant contributor within the organization. With over 20 years of healthcare experience, I have had the opportunity to work in various roles that include a Medical Assistant, Patient Coordinator, and Executive Assistant. I currently work in the Dept. Of Surgery as an Administrative Assistant. If I become a Staff Council Member, I will maintain a high work ethic. I truly believe in the mission of this project and look forward to connecting with new colleagues at UNM.
**Grade 9 (2 seats)**

Azura Tallant  
I have been working for UNM in different departments as a Fiscal Services Tech since 2014. In the last 5 years, I have learned about the university structure and was able to complete my undergraduate degree using the Tuition Remission Benefit available to UNM Staff. I also participated in many of the Staff Council events and feel that they are integral to creating a positive work environment and in helping to promote a healthy work/life balance for UNM Staff. I want to help to continue building the positive steps that are being made, advocate for a working environment that is considerate and fair to all staff members and to help generate positive change for UNM staff.

Erika Janeth Mendoza Esquivel  
I am from Tijuana Baja California, Mexico. I been living in Albuquerque about 5 years ago as my first city in the United States. I am a person with many ambitions, and I always work so hard to reach my goals. I consider myself a person who always try to do my best in what I am doing.

Sarah Los  
I joined the Department of Neurology as the Administrative Assistant to the Department Chair in August of 2018. Before this position, I provided administrative support to the Dean of the College of Science at Utah State University. I enjoy working in higher education, and especially appreciate that in the School of Medicine I am able to contribute to the educational mission of UNM and the health of the citizens of New Mexico.

Christopher Gossett  
Hello, Good Afternoon, My name is Christopher Gossett and im a single dad. Im originally from Florida, and moved to Albuquerque, NM 7 years ago to start a new life for myself. I started at UNM Jan 2, 2019 coming from CNM.

Christopher Dow  
Born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I graduated from NMSU with my BA in International Business. Highlights of my undergrad include: studying abroad in Spain, working in NMSU Outdoor Recreation, being a part of NMSAR, and adopting my best bud Rosko. Today, I am an MBA student at Anderson. I began working at UNM 2 years ago. I have gotten to know so many of the wonderful people whom work at UNM and make this campus so amazing. I love coming to UNM every day and would be truly thrilled to represent my job grade at this wonderful institution.

**Grade 10 (3 seats)**

Jessica Serna  
Served on Staff Council for two years as a grade 8 rep. Serve on HSC staff council committee. Volunteered on Staff Council events - Gerald May award reception, Staff as Students and HSC committee events - Staff research expo, Staff as artists, Morning Rave, Veterans appreciation, Lovin’ on Lil Lobos. Would like to now serve as a grade 10 Staff Council representative. Thank you

Anna Goodwin  
Political Science major and single mother of 3 with a diverse background in community engagement. Active in human rights, a community health worker for UNM, assist the underserved population with obtaining a basic education, work silks, housing, advocate for immigrants and protection for victims of sex and human trafficking, assist ex-prisoners with tools needed to become productive citizens, reducing recidivism. Have my own income tax business, offering very low rates to assist the Lower income class with affordable fees compared to major corporations like H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt, etc. I assist with financial planning at no additional charge. I was a victim of a major car crash last year in April, overcame temporary paralysis from waist down due to several fractures. I was an elected delegate for Michelle Lujan-Grisham’s gubernatorial campaign and attended all ceremonies for her inauguration as governor.
Fadi Jamaleddin
Fadi is a dedicated individual who cares about the health of the New Mexican population. He works in a clinical trial caring for people with diabetes. In addition, Fadi has a passion for healthy foods and is involved in a project with the goal to make organic foods a more safe and common practice. His love for health has inspired him to become a physician and one day open his own medical practice.

Hunter Esmiol
Undergrad: UNM - BBA, Anderson School of Mgmt - Int'l Mgmt (2011)  Played football for Lobos 06-07  Graduate: UNM - MHA, School of Public Administration (anticipated 2020)  Grade 10 Research Coordinator - UNM HSC CTSC

Rebecca Hansana
I have been with the Department of Neurosciences for a little less than 2 years. I recently received my BA in Anthropology and a minor in Psychology. Last year I was a winner for the 24th SOM Deans Staff Award and this year will be applying to Graduate school. I have a long history with UNM, as a student and employee. I am proud to be a part of this University and what it stands for. I look forward to many years with this organization and would love to be part of the Staff council as a representative to the University and staff.

Celestina Torres
No Statement.

Jose Rodriguez
Jose Rodriguez is a Summa Cum Laude graduate of UNM, having earned his undergraduate degree in Technical Film and Multimedia Production in 2017. He currently serves the Department of Emergency Medicine providing photography, videography, graphic design, and information technology support. In his free time, he volunteers his expertise to non-profits such as Albuquerque Pride, American Veterans for Equal Rights, and The New Mexico Veterans Memorial. In his near future, Jose plans to acquire an MBA from Anderson while continuing to donate his time to causes germane to him such as LGBT rights, women’s rights, public health, immigration, and animal welfare.

Grade 11 (4 seats)

Cory Munoz
I was born and raised in Hobbs, New Mexico. I moved to Albuquerque after completing my associate’s and bachelor’s degrees from New Mexico Junior College and the University of the Southwest, respectively. I have been in undergraduate, graduate and law admissions at The University of New Mexico since 2012. Being a part of the UNM family means a lot to myself and my wife. I would love the chance to be a part of Staff Council to continue to help move UNM in the right direction.

Cindy Mason
Cindy Mason is a Unit Administrator in the office of the AVP of Student Services under the VP of Student Affairs. Since 2007, she has been involved with Staff Council and is currently volunteering her time on the Student Success Committee. Cindy is dedicated to creating and maintaining a good support system for staff. Staff Council is a great way to get involved, to be well-informed and to be more attentive to the great work being done by staff, students and faculty at UNM. Cindy adds, “without Staff Council, the great work that we all do at UNM might not receive the deserved recognition that keeps us dedicated, diligent, and content. Staff is crucial to this University!”

Linda Jones
Having different employment opportunities has enhanced my enthusiasm to succeed and providing outstanding customer service. I have a passion for making a difference in the work lives of others. Creating an invigorating environment while serving on various committees gives me the opportunity to enhance and share successful results. It is rewarding to work with proactive committee members in a team results environment.
David Hutchens
A business professional with over 20 years in the banking and financial industry and 8 years in the recruiting industry. I am passionate about helping individuals and companies grow and provide better products and services for its customer base and the community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sierra Donovan Cushing
I am the Operations Specialist in the Department of Emergency Medicine-EMS Academy as well as a graduate student in the MPA-Health Policy & Administration program. My first position at UNM was in the Accessibility Resource Center as a student employee from 2012-2014, when I graduated. In 2016, I became a member of this great team again as temporary Office Assistant; 8 months later, I jumped on the opportunity to promote to my current position. The University has given me many opportunities since I enrolled in 2010; I would relish the opportunity to give back through the Staff Council.

Rebecca Diemer
I’m Rebecca Diemer, I’m a Sr. Academic Advisor in the department of Dental Hygiene. I moved to UNM and Albuquerque in the fall of 2018, and am excited about the possibility of serving on the UNM Staff Council. I have worked in Higher Education for 15 years at six universities and have a PhD in higher education policy. I study structural inequities in access and outcomes in higher education. I look forward to hearing your ideas, concerns, and working with you to make UNM an even better place to work, and for our students to achieve their academic goals. Thank you!

Nathanael Faust-Shucker
Hello everyone. I am a Senior Academic Advisor for the College of Arts & Sciences. I earned my undergraduate degree from UNM in Environmental Science. After spending some time away from UNM earning my Master's degree in Higher Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, I returned to UNM and now working on my MBA. I have also worked at Johns Hopkins University, Penn State, and Brown University working in a wide range of different departments. I believe my background working in higher education would allow me to best serve the amazing staff at UNM and speak on their behalf. I want to do was is best for UNM and the staff that help the university function.

Brian Schobel
No statement.

Patricia Young
Most of you know me as 'Tish.' I have worked at the UNM Police Department for nearly 23 years. Staff Council is a great way to stay connected with issues that concern staff, to share issues and events with constituents, and to influence the positive direction of UNM’s future as an involved staff member. I would love the opportunity to continue my active involvement in UNM Staff Council as a grade 11 representative.

Christine Frankie Heinemeyer
Being on Staff Council for several years has shown me how important Staff Council is for all Staff, being able to solve issues that can and benefit Staff. I would like to continue to serve and be the voice for Grade 11, and support Staff. Thank you

Bradford Beck
I've had the pleasure of serving on staff council for multiple years now, but I feel the bulk of the work is still to come. It would be my honor to serve the Grade 11 constituents over the next two years. I hope I have earned your vote and another chance to represent the amazing staff members here at the University of New Mexico!
**Grade 12 (4 seats)**

Christina Garcia-Tenorio  
I am an honored member of the University of New Mexico and have been for eight and half years. I currently reside in the Department of Pathology at the Health Sciences Center as the Medical Education Program Specialist. I hold a master degree in educational leadership and administration from New Mexico State University. It would be a great opportunity and pleasure to serve my grade 12 colleagues as Grade Representative.

Dayra Fallad-Mendoza  
My name is Dayra Fallad-Mendoza. I believe that UNM should strive to be a place where individuals can thrive professionally and personally. I have had the opportunity to serve students at UNM for over 8 years both in Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. I am currently the Program Specialist for Online Learning at the Center for Academic Program Support. In my previous roles at UNM I have worked at El Centro de la Raza as well as with the College Enrichment and Outreach Programs. I am also a Doctoral student in the Organizational Information & Learning Sciences program.

Garon Bodor  
I have worked in academic environments most of my professional life. I believe that high work quality product and staff well-being are highly correlated. I am proud to be a part of the UNM community and I am committed to making change for the positive happen should I be elected to represent my pay grade. Thank you for your consideration. Upward and onward!

Armando Bustamante  
I have been at UNM for over 12 years in two different student affairs offices. It has also been my pleasure to serve grade 12 for the past two years being able pass bills that advocate for wellness and benefits for staff. I want to have more opportunities to communicate with Staff Council by all UNM staff these next two years through efforts such as having walk with a councilor once a week and other activities that makes us more accessible. I would appreciate your vote.

Karroll Candelaria-Bauer  
Karroll Candelaria-Bauer is the Communication and Outreach Specialist for the Executive and Professional Education Center at Anderson School of Management. She represents the EMBA, MBA in Education Leadership, and Career and Professional Development programs in order to create awareness of and connect these programs with community individuals and organizations. Karroll also produces all events in the department including the EMBA and MBAed graduation and orientation, EMBA outdoor day, winter celebration, and alumni reunion. She is an EMBA alum from the class of 2015. Prior to joining EPEC, Karroll worked at Manzano Day School as the Associate Director of Admission as well as Development Assistant.

**Grade 13 (4 seats)**

Gilbert Gallegos  
Gilbert Gallegos a former emergency response professional, whose 24 year career in the fire service concluded with the rank of Assistant Fire Chief with the Albuquerque Fire Department. Since his retirement he has worked for CNM Community College as their Director of Safety and part-time instructor in the Fire Science Degree Program. Worked for UNM Hospitals as a Safety Specialist and currently serves as UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center Safety Specialist. He holds an Associate Degree in Applied Science, Fire Science Technology, a Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education/Training/Development and an undergraduate Certificate in Occupational Safety and Health.
Tracy Wenzl
Hello Grade 13! I have been a Grade 12 representative for the last year, but a recent position reclassification has moved me into Grade 13. This year, I serve as Staff Council Treasurer, co-chair of the Communications & Marketing Committee, and a member of both the Rules & Elections and Government Relations committees. I first got involved with Staff Council in 2010, and served as Speaker previously. As your representative, I’ll continue to strive for better working conditions for staff. Issues of particular concern for me are staff compensation, benefits, and recognition. I’d love to know what’s important to you!

Michael V. Medrano
My name is Michael V. Medrano and I am one of the Compliance Specialists within OEO. I am married and have three sons. I went to Cibola High School, graduated with a Criminal Justice Administration Degree from Wayland Baptist University (with Honors) and retired from the Albuquerque Police Department (after 20 years of service) as a Lieutenant. Prior to becoming a police officer, I served my country in the United States Navy as an enlisted service member. I was discharged from the military with an Honorable Discharge.

Audrea Winslow
I am native to New Mexico. I’ve been an UNM employee for almost 7 years. I obtained my Bachelors degree in Psychology from UNM. As an employee, I started as a Fiscal Services Tech and worked my way up to my current position as a Department Administrator. When I first begin my position as a Department Administrator, I served on the Employee Life committee in UNM Staff Council, however because of the demands of a new position, I had to resign to focus and thoroughly learn the position. I am confident now to contribute to Staff Council and UNM staff.

Cynthia Meche
I am a Sr. Marketing Rep. for HSC, responsible for departmental marketing campaign needs and upholding the brand. In my 6 months with UNM, I have been encouraging cross departmental collaboration. I am always looking for ways to improve the organization, including bridging communications, finding missed marketing opportunities, or helping out others. I find other departments are also entrusting me with additional responsibilities. Prior to this job, I worked for a Chamber of Commerce and feel very passionate about working toward a better future for all. I am also participating in the mentor 2.0 program for BBBS.

Cameron Goble
Cameron Goble has been a Lobo since he was in pre-school. Widely travelled through UNM, he is an alumnus of the College of Education, has worked as staff in IT and HR, as a Teaching Assistant in Media Arts, and is currently Assistant Director of the STEM Collaborative Center within Student Affairs. You have probably taken one of his staff trainings online. Cameron serves as the appointed laison between Staff Council, GPSA, and ASUNM, through which he facilitates communications and collaborative political efforts for all Lobos. Cameron enjoys playing the banjo, designing video games, and reading with his daughter.

Amy Suman
My name is Amy Suman and I am self-nominating for a position as a Staff Council member. I work as an Associate Scientist for the Prevention Research Center which is part of Population Health Sciences and the Department of Pediatrics after a 15 year career as a public school teacher. I serve as the Wellness Ambassador for my division and teach yoga on North campus twice a week at noon. I am excited to serve on this committee and look forward to learning new things!
Dwight Zier
My name is Dwight Zier and I am the department administrator for UNM’s Health, Exercise & Sports Sciences Department. I have a Masters in Educational Leadership and a Bachelors in Psychology. I love to travel and have been lucky enough to experience a great deal of the world's cultures (Asia, South America, Europe and the Middle East) but I will always be a native New Mexican. I enjoy having a positive impact in the educational community and would like to submit my candidacy to UNM Staff Council.

Jacob Field
Hello, my name is Jacob Field. I have worked at UNM for many years starting as a student employee with The Center for Development and Disability for UNMH and now as a Manager in the Biology department. I received both of my degrees from UNM and I would like to expand my voice and help out where I can so that all may enjoy our campus. It is important to me that we as UNM employees do what we can to help each other out, as well as students, and members of the community. Thank you for your consideration!

Susan Autumn Collins
Staff is the backbone of UNM - 7,000 strong! The lights literally don’t go on without us. I’m running for Staff Council Grade 13 Representative to be a voice for your concerns at UNM. 11 years on staff and two years’ Staff Council experience has prepared me to understand the nuances in the UNM system and help me to make change happen. As a career and mental health counseling manager, I strive for employee wellness, promote self-care, and advocate for work/life balance. My goal is to serve constituents through careful listening, diplomacy, patient persistence, and advocacy for employee wellbeing.

Grade 14 (3 seats)
Gina Urias-Sandoval
My name is Gina Urias-Sandoval and I have been involved in Staff Council for several years now. I chair the Student Success Committee and sit on various campus wide committees. My current role is the Director of Academic Graduate Programs at the Executive and Professional Education Center at the Anderson School of Management. I look forward to having the opportunity to serve as one of the Grade 14 Councilors through Staff Council. I am committed to making sure staff at UNM are aware of things that are going on campus wide and hearing from staff the concerns and challenges faced.

Jennifer Lucero
I am currently the Director of the College of Fine Arts Student Success and Advisement Center. I graduated from UNM in 2001 with a BA in Media Arts and minor in American Studies. I have worked at UNM as a Work Study in CFA, Administrative Assistant in the Dept. of Art as well as in the college office before moving into Academic Advisement. I am passionate about student/staff access to resources and support. I currently serve on NACADA Region 10 Board, PTA President at my children’s elementary school, and served on the Board for New Mexico Parents of Multiples for 5 years.

Erica Grong
My career in higher education began in 1990. I’m currently an IT Project Manager for UNM-IT, and I’m in my third year as Grade 14 Staff Council representative. I was very excited to be newly appointed to the Faculty Staff Benefits Committee, since I’m passionate about initiatives that develop staff skills and issues related to benefits. As a Grade 14 Staff Council representative, my passions will forge change and spark improvement, because I believe the development of the human resource can no longer receive less than top priority in any organization that wishes to remain competitive.
Jennifer Kavka
Jennifer began her career at UNM in May 2003 where she served as a research administrator for the CETI program. Jennifer’s many years at UNM has provided her the opportunity to collaborate with faculty, staff, and administrators across campus. This has given her a unique perspective on the structure of the university system as well as a strong understanding of staff issues and needs. Jennifer has served on Staff Council since May 2018 and has been an advocate for the welfare of staff members. If re-elected, she would continue to work hard at promoting the interests of the UNM community.

Grade 15 (2 seats)
David Pallozzi
I am an administrator at the law school in charge of admissions and financial aid...no pressure there..lol. I have been at UNM for three years and for the past two have been your Grade 15 Representative. I have also been involved with the University's Undocumented/DACA Task Force and the Provosts Committee on Academic Success. I am enjoying my time working at the law school and want to continue working as your Grade 15 Representative. On the Staff Council I am a member of the Rules and Election Committee. On a personal note, I am a single dad raising twin teenage girls. We moved here three years ago when I accepted my current position at the law school. We enjoy being part of the Lobo family and living in Albuquerque.

Ignacio Ortiz
I am currently the Academic Operations Officer at the College of Education and have worked at UNM for more than 15 years. I was appointed to fill a vacancy as a grade 15 representative in May 2017. Since that time, I have enjoyed being involved in the Staff Council and my relatively short experience has inspired me to continue my involvement and representation of Staff on the important initiatives involving the Staff Council. I would like to be elected as a grade 15 representative to serve a full two-year term. Thank you for your consideration.

Grades 16 – 20 (2 seats)
Mark Reynolds
I am currently the G16-19 representative for Staff Council and have been on Staff Council for ten plus years. I have chaired committees, currently on multiple committees and part of the Staff Council executive board as the Grade Representative. I have been in higher education for 35 years I understand the staff issues and represent those issues as a Grade Rep along with committees I am engaged with. I look forward to running for this position again and appreciate your vote. - thank you

Barney Metzner
I started at UNM in 1993 as a LAN Administrator working for the School of Medicine. When the Health Science Center was formed my role expanded as the IT Manager for the education and research components that make up the HSC (SOM, CON, COP, etc.). In 2005 when the HIPAA Security Rule went in effect I was asked to take on the role of HIPAA Security Officer. In 2010 a new job description was created, HSC Information Security Officer. Later UNM Jobs consolidated job descriptions and created the current Information Security Officer job title and grade. I currently report to the HSC CIO and maintain the HSC Information Security Office with one employee and HIPAA Security Rule oversight responsibility for UNM covered entities.