# Table of Contents

- Dean’s Message .......................................................... 1  
- Year in Review ............................................................... 2  
  
**Student Services:** Financial Aid and Scholarships ......................... 6  
**Education:** Veterans Affairs Nursing Academy Partnership .................. 7  
**Snapshots:** A Year in Photographs .................................................. 8  
**Research:** Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative ... 10  
**Practice:** College of Nursing Starts Doctor of Nursing Practice ................ 11  
**Faculty Publications** .................................................................. 12  
**Class Notes** ........................................................................... 13  
**Honor Roll of Donors, July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013** ............................. 14  
**Scholarships & Endowments** ....................................................... 16  
**UNM Nurse-Midwifery Education Program Celebrates 20 Years** ............ 17  
**Alumni Spotlight:** Simplicio NCAI Native Graduate Health Fellow ............. 18  
**20 Years of Independent Practice for Nurse Practitioners in New Mexico** .......... 19  
**First RWJF Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative Graduates.** ................ 20
Dean’s Message

With the deadline for the Affordable Care Act approaching, many are wondering how the health care community will evolve. While I do not have all the answers, I can tell you that nurses will be a significant part of the solution. And here at the UNM College of Nursing, we are preparing for just that.

In this issue, you will learn about a considerable funding opportunity that we are proud to be a part of, as it will have a broad impact on nursing education in New Mexico. As one of six schools that have been selected for the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academy Partnership Program, and in partnership with the New Mexico Veterans Health Care System, we have been able to increase our faculty as well as the number of pre-licensure students we can accept in order to educate two special cohorts to meet the needs of our nation’s veterans.

We are also excited to introduce you to our very first Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative graduates. Both Dr. Kelly Buettner-Schmidt and Dr. Carolyn Montoya are extraordinary nurses who have dedicated their careers to ensuring that their communities receive preventative measures in health care. These women are now poised to meet the nation’s health policy challenges. The work that they have done while in the Collaborative will continue, and they have a very bright future ahead of them.

Additionally, the College has officially launched our own post-master’s Doctorate in Nursing Practice (DNP) program for nursing executives. The first cohort started classes this summer, and we anticipate their graduation in 2015. Dr. P.J. Woods, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator, is leading the charge to bring this terminal practice degree to New Mexico. Two of our students from this new program have graciously shared their stories with you as well.

While the economy seems to be making a turnaround, rising costs of higher education are still a very real issue for our students. The changes that have occurred in the financial aid and scholarship world since I was a student are staggering, to say the least. The College understands this and works hard to ensure that we do everything within our power to help our students realize their educational goals. You’ll learn more about the challenges that students face and what we are doing to overcome those hurdles.

Change is inevitable, but the changes coming to our health care system will be like nothing we have ever seen before. The UNM College of Nursing is positioning itself to be proactive in this new age. We know that nursing will play a major role in this new health care landscape, and we look forward to leading the charge.

(Nancy Ridenour)

Nancy Ridenour, PhD, RN, APRN, BC, FAAN
Professor and Dean
UNM College of Nursing Reaccredited
The Board of Commissioners of the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education met on October 4-6, 2012, to review the accreditation of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing programs. The College hosted an on-site evaluation in the spring of 2012. The nursing degree programs at the University of New Mexico were awarded a 10-year accreditation.

Sánchez Named to Board
Joseph Sánchez, Program Operations Director at the College of Nursing, was appointed to the Board of Directors for Cuidando Los Niños on September 26, 2012. Cuidando Los Niños is a nonprofit organization committed to ending child homelessness in our local community.

College Staff Participate in Mentorship Program
College of Nursing staff members Joanna Andazola, Robyn Mintz and Michael Riblett applied for and were accepted to participate in the Health Science Center’s (HSC’s) Staff Mentorship Program. This professional development program matches each staff member with an HSC Mentor. The Mentor and Mentee work one-on-one developing the staff member’s unique goals while providing an opportunity to increase the staff’s knowledge base and professional skills. The program seeks staff members who may in turn mentor others in the future.

CON Passes NMNEC Curriculum
The UNM College of Nursing was the first school to pass the New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC) statewide curriculum. NMNEC is a collaborative of nearly every nursing program across the state of New Mexico, creating a common core curriculum in nursing education, transforming the current structure into a resource-efficient and easily accessible baccalaureate program for students.

Rodgers Wins Photography Contest
Dr. Beth Rodgers, Professor, is the Grand Prize winner in the New Mexico category of the Interprofessional Healthcare Simulation Center (IHSC), at UNM Health Sciences Center, photography contest. Her photo, “Roadrunner on Guard,” will be displayed at the IHSC.

Levi Elected to Committee
Dr. Amy Levi, Interim Executive Associate Dean, was elected to the Clinicians for Choice Advisory Committee of the National Abortion Federation.

President Frank Inauguration
The inauguration of UNM’s 21st president, Dr. Robert G. Frank, took place November 18, 2012. The inauguration went far beyond the installation ceremony. It was designed as a series of events highlighting the University’s excellence and unique characteristics. These events provided opportunities for members of the UNM family to celebrate all facets of the University and move forward together.

Hidalgo Recognized at Practitioner State Conference
Therese Hidalgo, Lecturer I, was recognized at the NM Nurse Practitioner (NP) State Conference, April 11-14, in Santa Fe, during which NPs celebrated 20 years of independent practice and full prescriptive authority.

Giddens Named Distinguished Nursing Alumna
Former Executive Dean Jean Giddens, PhD, RN, FAAN, was recognized on October 5, 2012, as the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Nursing Alumna Award from the University of Kansas.

Sánchez Attends Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Conference
Joseph P. Sánchez, Program Operations Director at the College of Nursing, doctoral student in Family Studies and Chair for the Project for New Mexico Graduate Students of Color, was selected by the Office of Graduate Studies to attend the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ 26th Annual Conference on October 20-23, 2012, in Washington, DC.

Dedication of CON’s First Endowed Chair
The College of Nursing celebrated the philanthropic spirit and thoughtful vision of the late dean and professor emerita, Dr. Virginia P. Crenshaw, on November 1, 2012. The special event dedicated the very first endowed chair in the College of Nursing. Dr. Sally S. Cohen, holder of The Virginia P. Crenshaw Endowed Chair in Nursing, is Associate Professor and Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative in the College of Nursing.

Rodríguez Wins Photography Contest
Dr. Beth Rodgers, Professor, is the Grand Prize winner in the New Mexico category of the Interprofessional Healthcare Simulation Center (IHSC), at UNM Health Sciences Center, photography contest. Her photo, “Roadrunner on Guard,” will be displayed at the IHSC.

Hidalgo Honored by AANP
Therese Hidalgo, Lecturer I, was among the nationwide recipients honored at the prestigious American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) 2013 State Award for Excellence at an awards ceremony and reception held during the AANP 28th National Conference, June 19-23, 2013, in Las Vegas, NV.

Dean Ridenour Goes to Washington
Dr. Nancy Ridenour, Professor and Dean, was invited to attend the Presidential Inauguration on January 21st. President Obama was first sworn in privately on January 20th, the date set by the Constitution, since the day fell on a Sunday. His public swearing the next day fell on the federal holiday honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., branding the occasion with another layer of historical significance.

UNM Day at the Capitol
On January 29, the College of Nursing (CON) highlighted its two doctoral programs – the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) for Nurse Executives and the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) – at the State Capitol. The CON booth was staffed by program coordinators Becky
Dr. Cox’s participation was solicited as a result of her research on access to VBAC and her leadership in the development of the ACNM Clinical Practice Guidelines for VBAC.

Dean Ridenour Elected to Board
Dr. Nancy Ridenour, Professor and Dean, was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties (NONPF) in the position of Member-at-Large for the 2013-2015 term. Her term officially began on April 13, in conjunction with the 39th Annual Meeting. NONPF is the only organization specifically devoted to promoting quality nurse practitioner education at the national and international levels.

Tigges Co-Investigator on AHRQ Research Project
Dr. Beth Tigges, Associate Professor, is a Co-Investigator and part of an interdisciplinary team on a newly funded Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) research project. Robert Rhyne, from the School of Medicine’s Family and Community Medicine Department, is the Principal Investigator. This project will utilize the UNM Health Extension Rural Offices (HEROs) to test two interventions for disseminating an evidenced-based toolkit for treating chronic non-cancer pain in selected primary care sites in New Mexico. Dr. Tigges will be leading the evaluation component of this important project, called “Health Extension Rural Offices: Translating Research into Localities” (HERO TRaILS).

Haozous Attends Summer Research Institute
Dr. Emily Haozous, Assistant Professor, attended the Summer Research Institute on Developing Behavioral Interventions offered by Johns Hopkins School of Nursing Center for Innovative Care in Aging this past summer. This research training is designed to help participants develop testable interventions that have potential for implementation in the practice environment and utilize appropriate trial designs.

Gregory Retires
Rosemary Gregory, Director of Development for the UNM College of Nursing, retired on April 30, 2013. She served in the role for 10 years, raising funds for students, faculty and program support.

Meize-Grochowski Consultant on NIH Research Project
Dr. Robin Meize-Grochowski, Professor, is a consultant with an interdisciplinary team on a newly funded National Institute of Complementary and Alternative Medicine research project entitled, “Adaptation and Evaluation of a Family-Based Mindful Eating Intervention for Overweight Adolescents.” The project Principal Investigator is Jeanne Dalen from Oregon Research Institute. This project represents an early-phase clinical research study to adapt and pilot a family-based mindful eating intervention for overweight adolescents, utilizing an iterative approach to formative treatment development.

Cox Attends IOM Workshop
Dr. Kim Cox, Assistant Professor, attended the Institute of Medicine (IOM) workshop, “Research Issues in the Assessment of Birth Settings.” This 2-day workshop was held at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC, March 6-7, 2013.

Giddens Named Dean of VCU School of Nursing
Dr. Jean Giddens, former Executive Dean of the College of Nursing, was named Dean of the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Nursing.

UNM CON Service Award Honorees
The University’s Annual Service Awards Ceremony is held in honor of employees who have served at UNM for 15, 20, 25, 30 and more years. This year’s College Service Award honorees include: Julie Gorwoda, Lecturer, 30 years; Karen Wells, Sr. Academic Advisor, 25 years; Ann Marie Oechsler, Manager Academic Advisement, 25 years; Jeri Belsher, Coordinator, Student Advisement, 25 years; and Mary Wright, Lecturer, 15 years.

Rob Rayner Dean’s Scholars
Andra Davis, Instructor, Felina Ortiz, Instructor, and Kristen Ostrem, Nurse-Midwifery Concentration Coordinator, were selected as Rob Rayner Dean’s Scholars. The purpose of the fund is to support nursing faculty working on doctorates, as well as faculty completing postdoctoral work.
Sánchez Appointed to NMHR
During the quarterly Board of Directors meeting for New Mexico Health Resources (NMHR) held in February in Santa Fe, NM, Joseph P. Sánchez, Program Operations Director, was appointed to the NMHR Board of Directors. NMHR is a private, nonprofit, no-fee agency organized to support efforts to recruit, place and retain health care personnel for communities, including rural and medically underserved areas around New Mexico.

CON Qualified to Receive Excellence Award
UNM College of Nursing qualified to receive the 2012 Educational Benchmarking Inc. (EBI) Commitment to Excellence Award – Gold Institution, in recognition of annual participation in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing/EBI Undergraduate Nursing Education Exit Assessment over the past 6 consecutive years.

Montoya Received Rosenblum Educator Award
Dr. Carolyn Montoya, Lecturer and Interim Practice Chair, received the Estelle Rosenblum Educator Award from Sigma Theta Tau.

Montoya Received Award for Obstructive Sleep Apnea."

Vacek Serves on International Panel
Jenny Vacek, Senior Lecturer II, was invited by Aga Khan University in Kenya, Africa, on May 2 and 3 to serve on an International Panel whose mandate is to provide input regarding the University’s newly designed integrated (medical and nursing) conceptually based curriculum. Aga Khan University is nonprofit and has several campuses in East Africa, Pakistan and the United Kingdom.

Rodgers Receives Funding
Dr. Beth Rodgers, Professor, received $26,000 in funding from DeVilbiss Health Care for her project, titled “Increasing Patient Engagement in the Management of Obstructive Sleep Apnea.”

Mendelson Presents Paper at ACR
A research paper, entitled “Changes in Leisure Participation in Persons with Systemic Sclerosis,” by Dr. Cindy Mendelson, Associate Professor, was accepted for presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR). She will present November 14th in Washington, DC.

Welle Accepted into Parent-Infant Training Program
Dr. Dorinda Welle, Assistant Professor, was accepted into the Anni Bergman Parent-Infant Training Program at the Institute for Psychoanalytic Research and Training in New York City. During the 3-year fellowship, she will develop a research approach to studying the policy environment for infant development.

Tinkle Elected to Board
Dr. Mindy Tinkle, Associate Professor and Research Team Chair, was elected to the International Society for Nurses in Genetics (ISONG) Board of Directors as Treasurer for a 2-year term and was inducted into the Board in October at the ISONG annual conference in Baltimore.

Former Acting Dean Passes Away
Former Acting Dean, Martha Beth Hicks, passed away September 23, 2012. She was Acting Dean of the UNM College of Nursing from 1986-1987.

Haozous Presentations
Dr. Emily Haozous, Assistant Professor, was part of a panel discussion at UNM entitled “Critical Issues Roundtable: Race, Medicine and the Law,” with Visiting Scholar Deleso A. Alford, JD, LLM. She also presented at the Native Research Network 24th Annual Health Research Conference in Seattle, WA, June 16-19th, on the R13 Conference held earlier this year, “Roadmap to Healthy Communities.”

Haozous Received Research Award
Dr. Emily Haozous, Assistant Professor, received the Research Area Award from Sigma Theta Tau.

Mendelson and Rodgers Attend NIH Bootcamp
Dr. Cindy Mendelson, Associate Professor, and Dr. Beth Rodgers, Professor, were both selected to attend the “NINR [National Institute of Nursing Research] Fatigue and Sleep Methodologies Boot Camp,” July 23-27 at the National Institutes of Health. This is a competitive research training workshop that will focus on the state of the science related to sleep and fatigue research methods and measurement.

Dr. Levi Consultations
Dr. Amy Levi has served as a grant reviewer for both the Health Resources Services Administration Nursing Division and the National Institutes of Health Academic Research Enhancement Award Applications. She has also served as a Work Group Chair for the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals Sexual and Reproductive Health Summit and an Advisory Board member for the Early Pregnancy Loss project at the University of California, San Francisco.
Damron Receives Funding for Mobile Mammogram Project
Dr. Barbara Damron, Associate Professor, has received funding totaling $75,000 for her Mobile Mammography project at the UNM Cancer Center. Funding comes from multiple sources, including the American Cancer Society, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Con Alma Foundation, and Nancy Floyd Haworth Foundation.

Welle Advises on National Initiative
Dr. Dorinda Welle, Assistant Professor, was in Washington, DC, advising on a national initiative to integrate youth relationships education and abuse prevention education into child welfare services. The advisory group includes child and youth advocacy groups, the Department of Health and Human Services and the Senate Finance Committee.

Averill Guest Presenter at University of Utah
Dr. Jennifer Averill, Associate Professor, provided a guest presentation to doctoral students at the University of Utah on the application of qualitative research to practice, using her own work with critical ethnography/community-based participatory research in southwest New Mexico as an exemplar. The lecture was followed by an extended asynchronous discussion with the students and faculty. This opportunity resulted from the Qualitative Methods interest group that Dr. Averill led at the Western Institute of Nursing conference in April.

Kimball’s Posters and Podium Presentations
Dr. Richard Kimball, Assistant Professor, had a series of posters and podium presentations accepted, which focused on his dissertation research (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis [ALS] and caregiving). He presented at the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science meeting in September, at the American Public Health Association meeting in November and at the ALS/Motor Neuron Disease Conference of Allied Health Care Professionals in December.

Levi Presentations

Meize-Grochowski Member of Online Course Advisory Council
Dr. Robin Meize-Grochowski, Professor, has been invited to be a member of the UNM Online Course Advisory Council, a Provost-sanctioned faculty advisory committee. This new advisory body is tasked with developing institutional online course standards for course development and instruction and providing recommendations for adherence/implementation to the standards.

Davis Elected to Council
Andra Davis, Instructor, was elected to the NM Cancer Council Executive Committee. She is the only nurse on the Council Board.

Overman Awarded HRSA Grant
Dr. Barbara Overman, Associate Professor, was awarded as a subcontractor for a HRSA (Health Resources and Services Administration) grant. It is a subcontract with El Pueblo Healthcare. The title of the project is “Innovation in Primary Care Oral Health: Interprofessional Team Practice/Model.” Total funding is for 3 years.

Dr. Carolyn Montoya
Dr. Carolyn Montoya, Lecturer and Interim Practice Chair, has completed her PhD in Nursing at the University of New Mexico College of Nursing. Congratulations, Dr. Montoya!

Retirement of Julie Gorwoda
Julie Gorwoda, Lecturer II, retired from the UNM College of Nursing early this summer. She dedicated her career at UNM to the Nurse-Midwifery Program and continues to be active with the program, even in retirement.

Dean Elected to UNMF Board of Trustees
Dr. Nancy Ridenour, Professor and Dean, was elected to the UNM Foundation Board of Trustees.

In 2015, the UNM College of Nursing will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary! Over the next year, we will be asking our alumni, faculty, staff and the entire nursing community to share their stories. Stay tuned for more to come.
Our nursing students face many challenges while obtaining their degrees. One of the biggest is the financial burden that goes well beyond just paying for tuition and books. The College understands this and has dedicated staff to help students not only find a way to lessen the burden, but to make smart financial decisions as well. Ana Vigil, Financial Aid Officer, and Sara Frazier, Professional Intern, understand the significance their roles play in the lives of our students and take these roles very seriously. Ana Vigil has been with the College for 23 years and has served in various capacities within the scholarship and awarding process throughout her tenure here. She has been in her current role for the past 5 years. Sara Frazier began working with Ana as a student employee in 2010, and after graduating from UNM in 2012, she was hired full time.

Our students not only face increases in costs of attendance and living expenses, but family responsibilities and household expenses as well. They are constantly extending an already overstretched dollar. Financial stress is very real for some of our students, as the costs associated with being in school are more than any other generation before them has experienced. This often means that students work more simply to make ends meet. Many of our students are coming in with previous college degrees, which means that the amount of incoming debt has been steadily increasing.

The College’s financial aid/scholarship office covers all aspects of federal financial aid. Every step is taken to ensure that our students’ financial aid (e.g., grants, loans and scholarships) process goes as smoothly as possible. Internal and external resources are shared with our students in detail, covering sources from national and state loan-for-service programs, loan repayment programs, and UNM and College of Nursing scholarships, as well as external scholarships and loans. Across the Health Sciences Center, there is now an emphasis on being mindful of debt and student budgeting, as well as loan repayment options. Ana and Sara also serve as liaisons to other departments and troubleshoot if a student needs help in understanding tuition and fee charges along with refunding concerns.

When asked what they like most about their jobs, both Ana and Sara had similar answers: the students. “Working directly with the students has always been the best part of my job in all my years at the College. I have great admiration for them as they pursue a degree in the ever-evolving field of nursing. Our students maintain enrollment and complete their degree program despite setbacks and financial challenges. They are determined to finish and I am determined to support them in any way I can through financial aid resources,” says Anna.

Sara echoes Ana’s feelings on the subject, “The most rewarding aspect of my position is the student growth that happens right before my eyes. Students often walk into my office apprehensive and unsure about how they are going to pay for school and their abilities to become a nurse or continue on to higher education. Then something switches and they become more confident and before you know it, they are done with their program and out into the world. Transformation is what keeps me coming in to work every day.” Both of these women truly provide a valuable resource for the College and our students.
The UNM College of Nursing (CON) has partnered with the New Mexico Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Care System as one of six schools selected for the Veterans Affairs Nursing Academy Partnership (VANAP) Program. This partnership will allow for increased enrollment of pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students and will prepare nursing students to meet the diverse needs of veterans in New Mexico. Other VANAP partnerships include Emory University, Marquette University, University of Minnesota, Arizona State University, and Oregon Health and Science University.

The VA established the program in 2007, partnering with the country’s leading nursing schools to expand the number of academic and VA collaborations, with the goal of developing compassionate, highly trained nurses to serve the health care needs of the nation’s veterans. Specifically, VANAP enables competitively selected VA–nursing school partnerships to expand the number of nursing faculty, enhance the professional and scholarly development of nurses, increase student enrollment and promote innovations in nursing education to improve the care of veterans and their families.

The State of New Mexico has made cuts to higher education funding since the start of the recession, resulting in a decreased enrollment of 24 fewer BSN students per year since 2010. UNM’s CON will develop the program to increase undergraduate nursing enrollment, faculty, and clinical placement, and prepare nursing students to meet the needs of veterans in New Mexico. Over the 5-year partnership, this will translate to an increase of approximately 25% more BSN-prepared nurses graduating from the CON.

“Veterans comprise nearly 20% of New Mexico’s population,” remarks Nancy Morton, MS, RN, CON Undergraduate Program Director and the VANAP Co-Director. “This partnership will significantly advance care for our veterans statewide, as we develop clinical sites to prepare nurses for the future of health care delivery – like telehealth and patient-centered medical home models.”

“Educating and training a high-quality workforce in veteran-centric care is a challenge for today’s health care leaders,” adds Cynthia Nuttall, PhD, RN, New Mexico VA Health Care System’s Associate Chief of Nursing for Professional Practice and VANAP Co-Director. “This VANAP grant will allow us to increase the number of BSN-prepared nurses in Albuquerque and throughout New Mexico, who will be knowledgeable of the impact that military service has on veterans’ health and will know how to treat the many health care needs related to military service.”

The College is proud to be included in this partnership and to have a part in ensuring that all veterans in New Mexico have the quality health care that they deserve.
A YEAR IN PHOTOGRAPHS

It is the mission of the College of Nursing to provide exemplary and innovative education, research, practice, service and leadership that improves state, national and global health. We are preparing the next generation of nurses to take on the challenges in health care today and into the future. Here are some highlights of our students over the past year during convocations, orientation, residency week, the health fair, receptions and more.
The UNM College of Nursing is proud to announce that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) has renewed funding for the RWJF Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative for another year. Sally S. Cohen, PhD, RN, FAAN, is Associate Professor and Director of the Collaborative. Dr. Cohen is also the first recipient of the Virginia P. Crenshaw Endowed Chair in Nursing, which is one of the highest distinctions the University can bestow on a faculty member.

Based in Albuquerque at the College of Nursing, the Collaborative is a partnership with RWJF designed to build the capacity of nurse leaders to engage as full partners in research, analysis, development and implementation of health policy. The RWJF Collaborative offers its Fellows academic and programmatic activities, experiential learning through both health policy field placements and on-campus activities, and a rigorous program of policy research that prepares them to address the health care needs of diverse populations. Graduates receive a PhD in Nursing with a Health Policy Concentration and are prepared to help reduce racial and ethnic health disparities, support interdisciplinary education and practice and provide nurse leadership as our nation’s health care system is redesigned.

This program supports diverse, PhD-prepared nurses as they prepare to develop innovative solutions at this time when:
- An aging population will require an increasing level of care and greater coordination of that care.
- Millions of children who grow up in poverty with poor diets, high rates of obesity, psychosocial stress and mental and behavioral challenges will need policies that help them attain healthy development.
- The growing ethnic and racial diversity of our nation will require health professionals to be culturally competent and to address racial and ethnic health disparities.
- Millions of newly insured Americans will require primary and preventative care.

These and other challenges are heightened in rural populations with fewer health care providers and among poorer communities that have long been underserved. Solutions to these types of health care and health policy challenges require innovative interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches that are not mired in individual, discipline or departmental silos.

RWJF Collaborative Fellows fully engage with the University of New Mexico community in academic studies, research and leadership activities on the Health Sciences Campus, within the RWJF Center for Health Policy and in other University departments. The program allows students to research the health issues and concerns that they find most compelling. Fellows have explored how national policy affects access to mental health programs, cost-effective models of maternity care and smoking cessation in public spaces.

Under Dr. Cohen’s directorship, the Collaborative helps to prepare Fellows in its nursing PhD program to become leaders in health policy and engage in partnerships with other health professionals, researchers, community leaders and policymakers. The UNM College of Nursing sincerely thanks RWJF for its continued generous support for the Collaborative and its mission.
COLLEGE OF NURSING STARTS DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree focuses on advanced practice nursing and is an alternative to the traditional research-focused Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in nursing. It is now considered the terminal degree for advanced practice nursing. The UNM College of Nursing admitted the inaugural DNP cohort into the Nurse Executive Organizational Leadership Concentration in May 2013. The College plans to offer this degree in Family Nurse Practitioner, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Midwifery concentrations in the future. There are currently 153 DNP programs now enrolling students nationwide, and more than 160 additional practice doctorates are also under development at U.S. nursing schools. To share more about the impact of this new program, here are stories from two students in the inaugural DNP class.

**Kathy Bucher**

Kathy is Associate Director for Patient Care Services and Executive Director at the VA medical center. She is a member of a five-person executive team that employs 2,400 full-time employees and serves 60,000 veterans. She’s also the mother of two wonderful girls.

Going back to school has been a good experience for Kathy. She states, “We are a wonderful small group that helps each other succeed. I wasn’t expecting that. I thought we’d be learning on our own. That’s not the case.” She’s also delighted with the high and rigorous expectation of performance and the content of course work. Kathy has also found a love for the extensive use of technology, “Meeting at Google Hangout was the coolest thing. This program allows professionals to come back to school.”

Following the completion of her DNP, Kathy will continue up the VA ladder, possibly becoming a hospital director in the next few years. She plans to apply her new skills on a national level, and eventually, she’d also like to return to teaching.

**Sherry Reeder**

Sherry currently resides in Albuquerque and is Unit Director for the Clinical Neurosciences Center. After evaluating DNP programs across the country, Sherry ultimately chose UNM because of its curriculum and because of Dr. P.J. Woods, Associate Professor and Program Director for the DNP program. Among Dr. Woods’ career highlights was her service as Chief Nursing Officer at the UNM Hospitals. She has made an impact on nursing leadership both locally and nationally.

The opportunity to be able to learn from someone who has both the academic credentials as well as the real-life executive leadership experience convinced Sherry that UNM was the school for her. Sherry says, “The faculty wants us to succeed and goes above and beyond to help us do so. They are not only interested in our academic careers, but also our leadership careers. I have never seen faculty this committed to their students!”

Sherry hopes that her DNP will bring her continued leadership opportunities, both at work and through volunteer work in the community, where she can be involved in meaningful decision making that makes a difference for the people and health of New Mexico.

As the College continues to foster the nurse managers and leaders in New Mexico in attaining graduate degrees, it is imperative that they stay abreast of new knowledge and maintain credentials to assure the public that they are current in the field and able to provide the framework for excellence in leadership.

In the words of Dr. Woods, “The field of Executive Nursing is changing rapidly, and faculty must be prepared to understand and teach students not only the current curriculum content in business and finance, organizational leadership, human resource management and quality oversight in health care systems, but also how health reform, including the Affordable Care Act and new models of care, such as accountable care organizations, patient-centered medical homes, tele-health and the use of health information technology, can effectively interface with bundled payments, purchasing power parity, value-based purchasing and comparative effectiveness, just to name a few.”
Faculty Publications

Jennifer Averill

Joanne Bartram

Blake Boursaw

Kim Cox


Andra Davis

Richard Kimball

Emily Haozous

Amy Levi


Marie Lobo


Robin Meize-Grochowski

Cindy Mendelson

Carolyn Montoya


Mark Parshall


Nancy Ridenour

Geoff Shuster

Debra Smith

Melinda Tinkle
1960s

The class of 1963 celebrated its golden anniversary in May 2012.

Joyce Butt, ’62 BSN, and her husband Bill celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past year.

1970s

Lizabeth Gober, ’76 BSN, received the Nurse Excellence Award for Home Health/Hospice from the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence.

1980s


Cynthia Nuttall, ’85 BSN, ’89 MSN, and ’10 PhD, received the 2012 New Alumni Award from the UNM College of Nursing.

LuAnn Wosick, ’81 BSN and ’91 MSN, received the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UNM College of Nursing.

1990s

Lindsay Grubensky, ’94 BSN, is working at Rady Children’s Specialists of San Diego.

1990s

2000s

Laura Brenneman, ’06 MSN, was among the first in line to get a seat inside court to hear the ruling from the Supreme Court on the Affordable Care Act.

Terri Gibson, ’08 MSN, received the 2012 Nursing Excellence Award for Community Service from the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence.

Eloyda Gomez, ’00 BSN, was inducted into the Legends of Nursing by the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence.

2010s

Teresa Coffey, ’10 BSN, participated in the 2012 UNM College of Nursing Alumni Awards selection committee.

Laura Brenneman, ’06 MSN, was among the first in line to get a seat inside court to hear the ruling from the Supreme Court on the Affordable Care Act.

Terri Gibson, ’08 MSN, received the 2012 Nursing Excellence Award for Community Service from the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence.

Eloyda Gomez, ’00 BSN, was inducted into the Legends of Nursing by the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence.

Cynthia Nuttall, ’85 BSN, ’89 MSN, and ’10 PhD, received the 2012 New Alumni Award from the UNM College of Nursing.

LuAnn Wosick, ’81 BSN and ’91 MSN, received the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award from the UNM College of Nursing.

1990s

Lindsay Grubensky, ’94 BSN, is working at Rady Children’s Specialists of San Diego.

2000s

2010s

Lauri Lineweaver, ’09 MSN, received the 2012 Nursing Excellence Award for Education/Research/Academia from the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence.

Marlena Lopez, ’06 BSN, married Oscar Lopez.

Patricia Metz, ’01 BSN and ’11 MSN, is working at Dar a Luz.

Stephanie Sanderson, ’05 MSN, received the 2012 Nursing Excellence Award for Critical Care from the New Mexico Center for Nursing Excellence.

Are you an alumnus who has something exciting to share? Please email Marlena Bermel, senior alumni relations officer, at mbermel@salud.unm. You could be in the next Annual Report!
The University of New Mexico College of Nursing is grateful to the following alumni, friends, corporations and foundations for their generous gifts and pledges received by the University of New Mexico Foundation.
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

$100-$249 (continued)

Susan and John Cheshire
Cheryl Christopherson
Molly Cunningham
Dr. Marjorie Cypress
Barbara deNevers
Betsy and Dick Frank
Christopher Fredericks
Anna Freidell
Dr. Chiyoko and Paul Furukawa
Janet and Edward Gorski
Julie Gorwoda
Bobbi Hall
Dr. Catherine Harris
Joan and Dr. Fred Hashimoto
Jean and James Hawk
Nina Herzog
Patricia and Thomas Hill
Anne Juc
Ethel Kayate
Michele and Melvin Kirk
Prudence and Robert Kluckhohn
Jessica and Eric Knight
Robyn and Craig Lawton
Lisa Leahigh
Kathleen and Bradley Leech
Jenny Loshbaugh
Carla and Henry Lovato
Tara Lucero
Loretta and Charles Maxwell
Melody McGee
Colette McWhorter
Shirley Meskenas
Dr. Elsie and Bruno Morosin
Ann Musinski
Nancy and Eloy Nunez
Kathleen and Thomas O’Hanlon
Dawn and Christopher Ostberg
Kristen Ostrem
Ms. Carole Owens
Nellie Pacecho
Margaret Pacillas
Rhonda Phillip
Tara Rice
Tina and David Robles
Elizabeth and Richard Royer
Merri and Kurt Shipley
Jo Price Simms
Paul Siscel
Viviana Skaggs
Rebecca Smith-Sealy
Joann Taylor
Nicole Van Luchene
Marlene and Thomas White

Denotes College of Nursing Alumnus

New Horizons Society*

Current Members

Joan M. and Raymond C. Bowen
Kathy A. and Bradley W. Day
Maryann Evans and Edwin G. Roos
Martin W. and Lois Ann Fleck
Terry Jackson and James Gustafson
James Hesse
Hari Kaur Khalsa
Helen and Gerald Moser
Annie L. and David C. Olson
Elise Charlese Spencer

* Recognizing Donors who have included the College of Nursing in their estate plans or who have made other types of planned gifts. A planned gift may take the form of a bequest intention in a will or living will, an IRA or retirement account beneficiary designation, a life insurance or other beneficiary designation, a gift annuity, a charitable remainder trust or other arrangements.

We have made every attempt to ensure accuracy. If your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies and contact Ross Burkstaller, Director of Development, at (505) 272-0200 or rburksta@salud.unm.edu.

CERTAINTY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

Make a gift and receive a guaranteed, fixed income for life.

A charitable gift annuity (CGA) funded with cash or securities can provide you with a charitable deduction and a fixed income for life. Rates are based on your age, and a portion of your payment could be tax free.

A CGA with a minimum gift of $15,000 (cash or securities) will get you:

• Guaranteed, fixed payments for life to you and/or a loved one
• Partially tax-free income
• A charitable deduction
• A lasting contribution to the UNM College of Nursing

(Seek advice from a tax professional before entering into a gift annuity agreement. UNM gift annuities are not available in all states)

When you create a CGA you become eligible for membership in the UNM New Horizons Society.

Contact Ross Burkstaller, Director of Development, at 505.272.0200, or rburksta@salud.unm.edu for more information.

CGA Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>6.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have made every attempt to ensure accuracy. If your name has been omitted, misspelled or incorrectly listed, please accept our apologies and contact Ross Burkstaller, Director of Development, at (505) 272-0200 or rburksta@salud.unm.edu for more information.
SCHOLARSHIPS & ENDOWMENTS

Current Student Scholarship Endowments

- Diane Lynn Adamo Memorial Scholarship in Nursing
- Agnes Ripple Adams Memorial Scholarship Fund in Nursing
- American GI Forum Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Robin Armell Memorial Scholarship
- Broadmerkel/Brown Endowed Memorial Fund
- Marie C. Caton Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Rufus F. Carter Scholarship
- Mary Helen Terret Craig Endowed Scholarship
- Diane Doherty Memorial Scholarship
- Marty and Dave Evans Scholarship Endowment in Nursing
- Carl H. Feak, Jr., and Joy N. Feak Nursing Scholarship Fund
- Maggie Ferguson Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Evelyn Marlin Fisher Endowment
- Friends of Nursing Endowment
- Shirley N. and Frank B. Gilliam Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Hall-Carper Scholarship
- Helene Fuld Health Trust Scholarship for Baccalaureate Nursing Students
- Marie Honette Hoch Scholarship for Nursing Students
- Nellie F. Huntsinger Scholarship Endowment
- Portia Irick Nursing Scholarship
- Virginia S. Jackson Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Louise Grey Kiger Nursing Scholarship
- Dean Eleanor King Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Dorothy Landgraf Memorial Scholarship Endowment in Nursing
- Carolyn Dooley Martinez Scholarship Endowment in Nursing
- Reverand Uvaldo Martinez Memorial Scholarship
- Aladino and Nellie Matteucci Endowed Scholarship
- Debra Lynn Baker Mauney Memorial Scholarship
- Peter and Geneva Meerdink Endowment Fund
- Dale and Ivan Melada Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- John Meredith Endowed Scholarship
- Blanche Ausley Montgomery Memorial Scholarship
- Emma M. Olson Memorial Endowment
- Bryant E. Pedrick Nursing Endowment
- Thomas A. Plein Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Maryann and Edwin G. Roos Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Estelle H. Rosenblum Dissertation Award
- Senior Class Endowed Scholarship in Nursing
- Donea and Bill Shane “Returning to School” Nursing Scholarship
- Sharon Lee Smoker Nursing Scholarship Endowment
- Joan Marie Tippeconnic Memorial Scholarship Endowment
- Federated Woman’s Club of Albuquerque Scholarship

Total Scholarships Awarded in Fiscal Year 2013: 144

College of Nursing Faculty and Program Endowments

- Leah L. Albers Professorship in Midwifery
- Carlson/Petty Endowment for Innovative Nursing Education
- Carter/Fleck Endowed Professorship in Nursing
- College of Nursing Administration Endowment
- College of Nursing Clinic Endowment
- College of Nursing Education Endowment
- College of Nursing Organizational Services Endowment
- College of Nursing Practice Endowment
- College of Nursing Research Endowment
- College of Nursing Student Services Endowment
- College of Nursing Technology Endowment
- Virginia P. Crenshaw Endowed Chair in Nursing
- Ruth Franklin Endowment for Geriatric Nursing
- Giddens’ Neighborhood Endowment
- Judith Harris Global Health Endowment
- Idolia Hawkins Endowed Award in Nursing
- Aladino and Nellie Matteucci Faculty Fellowship
- Nurse-Midwifery Education Endowment
- David C. and Annie L. Olson Endowment
- Rob Rayner Dean’s Scholar Endowment
- Ridenour Faculty and Staff Development Endowment
- Rosenblum-Weiss Endowment for Women’s and Children’s Health

Total Faculty/Program Awards Fiscal Year 2013: 7
UNM NURSE-MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

The UNM nurse-midwifery education program is celebrating its 20th anniversary by highlighting successes, honoring the past and looking forward to leading into the future.

Since its inception, the UNM Nurse-Midwifery Program has been dedicated to educating nurse-midwives to serve rural areas and underserved women and families, particularly in New Mexico. The fully accredited program has been ranked among the top five programs nationally since 2002.

Nurse-Midwifery Education Program Timeline

1993 UNM program pre-accredited. First UNM class graduates with Master of Science in Nursing degree. Nancy Clark, MSN, CNM, first program director.

1994 Full regular accreditation received. Barbara Overman, PhD, CNM, hired as Director.

1995 First dual-certification graduates (midwifery and family nurse practitioner).

1998 Program re-accredited.

1999 Federal grant money ends, and UNM’s program becomes the country’s only fully state-funded midwifery program. Julie Gorwoda MSN, CNM, appointed Program Director.


2003 Midwifery scholarship established by first graduating class.

2006 Program reaccredited for 10 years. 100th program graduate.

2008 Albers Professorship in Midwifery established. UNM Nurse-Midwifery ranked #3 in the United States and first in the West.

2013 Kristen Ostrem, MSN, CNM, FNP-BC, appointed Program Director.

More than 100 professional nurse-midwives from practices all over New Mexico and the greater Southwest volunteer their time and expertise as preceptors so that each student has more than 1,000 hours of clinical experience during the course of studies. Many of these hours of experience occur in rural and underserved communities. Six to 10 nurse midwives graduate and enter the workforce annually. The program has a 100% pass rate on the national certifying exam. Ninety-eight percent of graduates pass on the first attempt, at a rate well above the national average of 88%.

The history of midwifery is rich in New Mexico and includes roots in Spanish Colonial times, when parteras, or village midwives, cared for birthing women. Later, Santa Fe’s Catholic Maternity Institute was the first free-standing birth center and university-affiliated nurse-midwifery program in the United States. In 1955, midwifery leaders incorporated the national professional organization, the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), in the state of New Mexico. Today, women can receive prenatal and women’s care and be attended at birth by nurse-midwives in the majority of the state’s hospitals. Since 2003, New Mexico nurse-midwives have welcomed one third of New Mexican babies born every year.

One third of certified nurse-midwives practicing in New Mexico are now UNM graduates. Alumni serve in leadership capacities throughout the state and the nation through directorship positions of large midwifery services, serving on ACNM’s board of directors, and holding office in the state and in the ACNM.
The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) announced in April 2013 that it had awarded Brittany Simplicio, class of 2011 and 2013, its 2nd annual Native Graduate Health Fellowship. The Fellowship included both a financial award of $5,000 and professional development in tribal health policy. NCAI received nearly 40 applications from students representing 18 tribes. Finalists were selected on the basis of demonstrated commitment to American Indian and Alaska Native Health, academic achievement, and community leadership. The program aims to build a pipeline of Native health professionals who can support tribal sovereignty and who are prepared to lead in promoting health policies and practices that address the unique needs of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Brittany was inspired to become a nurse by her 90-year-old grandmother. A retired ob/gyn nurse herself, Brittany’s grandmother worked in an Indian Health Service (IHS) hospital for 55 years. On graduating with her Master of Science in Nursing degree in spring 2013, Brittany became the 11th Native nurse-midwife in the United States. Throughout her master’s program, she was devoted to serving Native communities. Her clinical rotations were largely on the Navajo Nation, both in Shiprock, NM, which is her hometown, and at Fort Defiance, AZ. Brittany also mentored diverse high school students in preparing for higher education as a project specialist at the UNM College Readiness program.

When asked why she chose nurse-midwifery, Brittany simply replied, “Midwifery found me.” She credits Dr. Pat Payne and Julie Gorwoda, retired faculty at the UNM College of Nursing, with introducing the idea to her and gently encouraging her to pursue her natural talents. Brittany also had the mentorship of fellow nurse-midwifery alumna, Nicole Gonzales, class of 2011. Nicole is the 10th Native nurse-midwife in the United States and was a huge support. Together, both women aspire to establish a sustainable birth center in New Mexico that will serve Native communities and assist families in bringing traditional birth options back to the Native community.

This past July, through NCAI, Brittany traveled to Washington, DC, to attend a workshop on Tribal Health Policy and Sovereignty. Five students, including Brittany, from all over the country, from different tribes and from different backgrounds in health care, came together to share experiences and expertise as well as to learn. Over the course of 4 days, participants heard from speakers about tribal sovereignty, national legislation, the Affordable Care Act, storytelling and much more. They also received a visit from IHS Director, Dr. Yvette Roubideaux, who asked them about their experiences and needs from their tribes. They were also provided an opportunity to sit in while a Senator lobbied against the Affordable Health Care Act.

Going forward, Brittany plans to move back home to serve her community as a nurse-midwife. This workshop provided her with the foundation she needed to begin her journey in learning about her tribe’s needs and addressing them in a calculated manner. “Before, I had all these ideas with lots of information from nursing and midwifery school floating around in my head, which made me feel overwhelmed as to where to begin my journey as a new midwife. Now, I know to start slow and take it one step at a time. Ultimately, I know that the changes I envision will not be by my efforts alone. It takes the input and collaboration of a whole community.”
In today’s world of health care, patients in New Mexico are not new to the idea of seeing a nurse practitioner (NP) for their health care needs. This past year, NPs celebrated 20 years of independent practice and full prescriptive authority. This is a very historical event considering that many NPs across the country still do not have these rights.

The first NP program, designed to educate Pediatric NPs, was developed at the University of Colorado School of Nursing in 1965. It was a collaborative effort between Dr. Loretta C. Ford and Dr. Henry K. Silver. The goals of the first program were to test the expansion of the scope of practice of nurses for well-child care in community-based settings. If successful, the findings would be integrated into collegiate nursing curricula.

The very first Family NP (FNP) hails from New Mexico. Martha Schwebach, FNP, worked at Hope Medical Center in Estancia, NM.

In the United States, all NP programs were originally certificate-granting programs. New Mexico had a certificate-granting program out of UNM’s School of Medicine in the 1970s. It then developed a master’s program at the College of Nursing in 1989. Originally, they only accepted eight students. More than 200 students have now completed FNP concentration.

In New Mexico in 1989, practice had been defined in the Nurse Practice Act for more than 10 years. Prescriptive privileges were under the NPs’ own signature, with written protocols and physician supervision. Twenty-two years later, revisions to the Nurse Practice Act defined advanced practice as being in collaboration with a physician. NPs needed to submit proof of national certification, completion of an approved program, and a letter of collaboration with a physician to practice. They could prescribe noncontrolled substances under the supervision of a physician – prescription pads needed to have both the NP’s and the physician’s names preprinted on the form. Finally, in 1993, NPs had independent practice and full prescriptive authority, without physician supervision. They were recognized as primary care providers.

Currently, it expected that the Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) will be the standard degree for NPs as of 2015. This summer, the UNM College of Nursing began a post-master of science in nursing (MSN) to DNP program for Nurse Executive Organizational Leadership students. There are future plans for a post-MSN to DNP program for FNPs and Adult-Gerontology Acute Care NPs, tentatively scheduled to begin in Summer 2015. UNM also currently offers a PhD in Nursing online.
The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative is preparing a new generation of nurses with Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees to help meet our nation’s health policy challenges. The RWJF Collaborative’s faculty and Fellows engage in policy research to address the health care needs of America’s most vulnerable populations.

The Collaborative recently reached a significant milestone with the successful completion and defense of dissertations by two of its Fellows, Dr. Kelly Buettner-Schmidt and Dr. Carolyn Montoya. Both have earned their PhDs in Nursing. Let us introduce you to our very first Nursing PhD graduates with Fellowships from the RWJF Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative.

Dr. Kelly Buettner-Schmidt

Dr. Buettner-Schmidt knew at a young age that she wanted to be a nurse. She graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree and began her career in acute care. After being laid off due to overstaffing, she shifted to public health. Having worked at the local public health department, she applied as a BSN nurse. Despite there being no openings, she was hired immediately, thus beginning her 17 years as a local public health nurse. Dr. Buettner-Schmidt went on to become a nurse educator, primarily teaching public health nursing and eventually chairing the Minot State University Department of Nursing for 4 years.

The University of New Mexico (UNM) Nursing and Health Policy PhD caught her attention immediately when she searched for a program that fit her career path and was available at a distance. During the application process, she was invited to apply to the RWJF Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative program as a Fellow. Moving into the role of a nurse health policy researcher provided an outlet for her need to be challenged, to be involved in change, and to act on her commitment to improve people’s health.

Building on her public policy career in tobacco control, Dr. Buettner-Schmidt’s dissertation research assessed the level of tobacco smoke pollution (secondhand smoke) in hospitality venues across the state of North Dakota. This was the first statewide tobacco smoke pollution study in the United States and was one of very few rural sample studies and random sample studies to investigate tobacco smoke pollution. Results showed that smoke-free laws had both indirect and direct effects on tobacco smoke pollution, and Dr. Buettner-Schmidt found that as rurality increased, tobacco smoke pollution in bars significantly increased. One chapter of her dissertation has already been published.

Dr. Buettner-Schmidt’s dissertation research was supported by grants from the RWJF Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative at UNM. She also received funding from the North Dakota Center for Tobacco Prevention and Control. Dr. Buettner-Schmidt has already completed a follow-up study to her dissertation, “Tobacco Smoke Pollution and Compliance Before and After Passage of a Statewide Smoke-Free Law.” Dr. Marie Lobo, UNM College of Nursing Professor and Dr. Buettner-Schmidt’s dissertation Chair, stated, “Dr. Buettner-Schmidt’s work has had a profound impact on the health and well-being of the citizens of North Dakota. Her work will have national impact as it is disseminated. Dr. Buettner-Schmidt defended her dissertation with distinction.”
Dr. Carolyn Montoya has always had the desire to help children. She began her career working in pediatrics at Presbyterian Healthcare Services in Albuquerque, NM. She then earned her Master of Science in Nursing degree and became a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP), working in Brownsville, TX. She is currently Assistant Professor, Interim Practice Chair, for the UNM College of Nursing and works as a PNP for Pediatric Health Services in Albuquerque, NM.

Dr. Montoya’s dissertation, “Children’s Perception of Weight,” is unique in that the majority of participants were Hispanic children. Her research revealed two primary findings. First, children who are overweight or obese did not perceive themselves as such. Second, one third of the children sampled wanted to be underweight. These findings demonstrate the need to balance the manner in which health providers design programs for overweight children. They must be cautious not to go too far in one direction. Dr. Montoya prefers to focus on being healthy.

Dr. Montoya’s dissertation research was supported by grants from the RWJF Nursing and Health Policy Collaborative at UNM. Additionally, she received the Nurse Practitioner Healthcare Foundation’s Astellas Promoting Heart Health Across the Age Span Award. She also received a Dean’s Scholar Program Award. These three awards combined provided financial support for her study, which took place in a rural community in southern New Mexico. Dr. Lobo, also Dr. Montoya’s dissertation Chair, said, “Her work will be used to influence school policies around both nutrition and physical activity.”

Dr. Montoya found the RWJF Nursing and Health Policy Fellowship to be a very rigorous and excellent program and recommends it to anyone with an interest in health policy. She is also quick to point out that this was a journey that she did not travel on her own. “There’s no way to do it by yourself,” she said. Dr. Montoya feels she owes many thanks to several colleagues and her family.
UNM COLLEGE OF NURSING PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  Basic Entry Option
  RN to BSN Option

Master of Science in Nursing
  Nursing Education
  Advanced Practice Nursing
    Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
    Family Nurse Practitioner
    Nurse-Midwifery
    Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing
  Individualized Plan of Study
  Health Policy Concentration

Doctorate of Nursing Practice
  Nursing Executive
  Organizational Leadership