



From the Office of the President

Tuesday, August 22, 2017

Greetings NMT Students,

New Mexico Tech once again is alive with activity with the arrival of new students – both first-year freshmen and transfer students – and to those returning to this beautiful campus. On behalf of our faculty and staff, it is my great pleasure as President to officially welcome each and every one of you as we begin the 2017 – 2018 academic year. New Mexico Tech is proud to be a diverse and welcoming place for all students, faculty and staff, and I trust that you will find it to be so.

Already I've witnessed a sense of camaraderie among the new freshmen class which I encourage in hopes that students form strong bonds with each other as class cohorts. For most of you, this is your first real experience living away from home, something you share with your fellow freshmen. And to our returning students, thank you for your commitment to continue your education at what I believe is one of the premier science and engineering research universities in the country.

I am pleased to share with you a few of the exciting developments we are working on over the coming months, and the first is just around the corner. Friday, Aug. 25 is the Dedication and Grand Opening of the new Daniel H. López Chemistry Building, an ultramodern facility with outstanding classrooms and labs for our students. It is an exciting addition to our campus designed to enhance the learning experience of students today and for years to come.

Student support and student success rank high on my list of priorities. Among efforts we are pursuing is the search for an Assistant Vice President for Student and University Relations (SUR) to assist SUR Vice President Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming, whose workload has increased as we've rolled out new programs and priorities. We are hoping to have this key position filled soon.

Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming has announced a change in the university's Title IX program. Ms. Lynn Arthur, Assistant Director of Residential Life, will oversee Title IX on an interim basis until the new Assistant Vice President is on board. A significant responsibility of the individual hired for

this position is to lead the Title IX initiative, a change that reflects our commitment to ensuring that all students feel safe on campus, from the residence halls to the classroom. Harassment of any kind cannot and will not be tolerated at New Mexico Tech. For now, Ms. Arthur will be handling all Title IX inquiries and complaints from her office in the Fidel Center. Ms. Jaramillo-Fleming remains committed to meeting the needs of Tech students, a philosophy the incoming Assistant Vice President will share.

I was amazed and delighted to discover how many of our new students already know and are excited about New Mexico Tech's plans to reopen the historic Loma Theater downtown. This is a project I have had as a priority since becoming the university's 17th President last year. Thanks to collaborative efforts

with the First State Bank and the City of Socorro, the Loma will show first-run movies from Thursday through Sunday, and will be equipped with 3D capabilities, which should appeal to Techies.

On a personal note, I'm looking forward to working with our student leaders over the next year on issues ranging from the Lottery Scholarship, Legislative activities and plans for the new Body and Mind (recreational) Center on campus. The proposed center will include an Olympic-sized pool, indoor track and other amenities designed with the personal health and wellbeing of our students in mind. I am committed to seeing this project through to completion, and welcome the input of our students as we move forward.

Our university is robust and growing, even as higher education itself is undergoing changes in New Mexico and nationwide. I can assure you that with our world-class faculty, dedicated staff and solid administrative leadership, our students are in very good hands.

And if I may offer you the following advice: Go to class and do your homework, but take time out to enjoy this special time in your lives. Go to a movie! Good luck to each of you.

Best regards,

Stephen Wells
President, New Mexico Tech