

2020

School of Engineering  
**ANNUAL AWARDS**

CENTENNIAL  
ENGINEERING  
CENTER

**NM** SCHOOL OF  
ENGINEERING



# WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

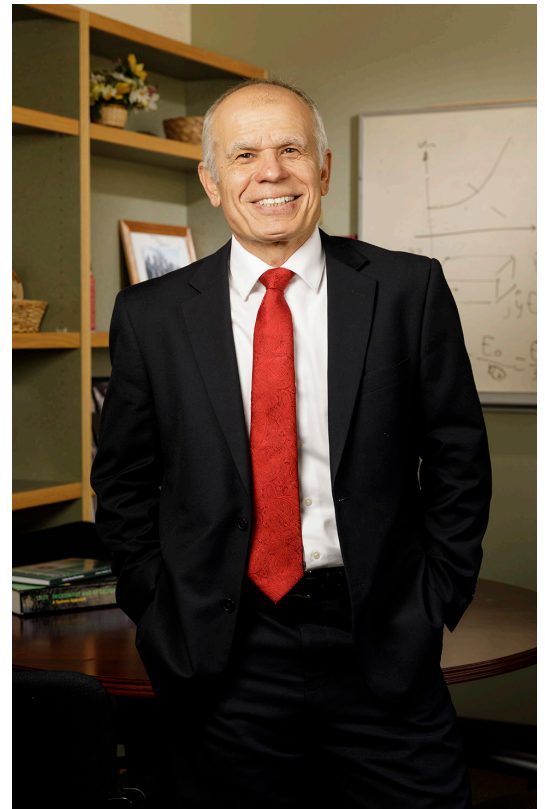
I think we would all agree that this semester was far from what anyone could have ever imagined. I, like most of you, was looking forward to having our annual end-of-the-year celebration to honor the hard work of our outstanding students, faculty and staff, enjoying lunch in the Courtyard on a beautiful, sunny spring day and mingling with students, colleagues, and family members and friends of winners as we marked the end of another successful academic year.

However, due to circumstances beyond our control, that was not to be for 2020. But even though we are not physically together this spring, we are together in spirit. And in no way does our not being together in person diminish the honors you are receiving this spring or all the hard work you put in to help get you there.

As always, I am amazed and proud at the accomplishments of our outstanding members of the School of Engineering, and I'm even more impressed this year. Despite unimaginable obstacles, our Lobo Engineers not only persevere, but thrive!

Although your road ahead may be filled with a few new challenges in the coming months — and years — rest assured that the excellence that has gotten you to where you are will get you through anything the future may toss your way.

Congratulations, and I wish you all success, health and happiness as each of us venture into uncharted waters separately, but yet together as a family in the School of Engineering.



**Christos Christodoulou**

Jim and Ellen King Dean of Engineering and Computing

# About our awards

Thank you for joining us in this celebration of all of our hard work as we recognize several outstanding faculty, staff and students in a variety of award categories listed below:

**Outstanding students** are selected based on a variety of criteria such as GPA, research, and service to the School, depending on the department.

**Staff awardees** are nominated by faculty and staff from the school, and the recipients are selected by the previous year's winners. The criteria for selecting outstanding staff are not limited to, but include attitude, performance, contribution, and initiative.

**Faculty awardees** are nominated by their departmental chair and are selected by the previous year's winners. Faculty awards are separated into five categories:

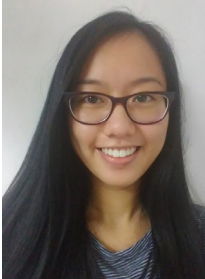
**RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, SENIOR LEVEL** is awarded to a full professor or 6 or more years at UNM in a tenure-track position.

**RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, JUNIOR LEVEL** is awarded to an associate professor or lower in grade with no more than 6 years at UNM in a tenure-track position.

**TEACHING EXCELLENCE, SENIOR LEVEL** is awarded to a full professor or 6 or more years at UNM in a tenure-track position.

**TEACHING EXCELLENCE, JUNIOR LEVEL** is awarded to an associate professor or lower in grade (including Instructor) with no more than 6 years at UNM in a tenure-track position.

# Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering



**Jessica Lien**  
Outstanding  
Sophomore Award



**Mohammed Radha  
Al Khazraji**  
Outstanding  
Sophomore Award



**David Jeffrey Arnot**  
Outstanding Junior  
Award



**Irais Ortiz-Caraveo**  
Outstanding Senior  
Award



**Florencia Monge**  
Outstanding  
Graduate Student  
Award

“Meeting and collaborating with some of the most astounding individuals is something I’ll treasure forever.”

— Irais Ortiz-Caraveo

# Department of Civil, Construction & Environmental Engineering



**Alan James Barney**  
Outstanding  
Sophomore Award



**Alexandra Lee  
Brown**  
Outstanding Junior  
Award



**Ernesto Perea**  
Outstanding Senior  
Award



**Carmen A. Velasco**  
Outstanding  
Graduate Student  
Award

**“The School of Engineering  
is such a wonderful  
resource with a lot of  
caring people, and I feel  
like I matter. I don’t just  
feel like a number, and  
that’s so important to me.”**

**— Alexandra Lee Brown**

# Department of Computer Science



**Abigail Pribisova**  
Outstanding  
Sophomore Award



**D M Raisul Ahsan**  
Outstanding Junior  
Award



**Simon Louis  
Spangenberg**  
Outstanding Senior  
Award



**William Whitney  
Schonbein**  
Outstanding  
Graduate Student  
Award



**U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland visited the Department of Computer  
Science in January.**

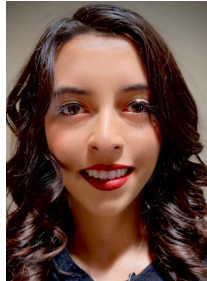


# Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering



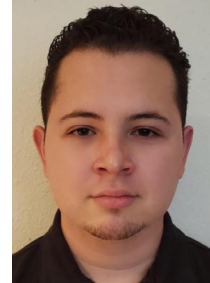
**Nicholas Christian  
Ross**

Outstanding  
Sophomore Award



**Skyler Valdez**

Outstanding Junior  
Award



**Kendric Ray Ortiz**

Outstanding Senior  
Award



**Georgios Fragkos**

Outstanding  
Graduate Student  
Award

**“I love the idea of  
creating something  
new from scratch and  
improving things.  
Engineering has enabled  
me to do just that.”**

**— Kendric Ray Ortiz**

# Department of Mechanical Engineering



**Mary Arnhart**

Outstanding  
Sophomore Award



**Donato Piroscalo**

Outstanding Junior  
Award



**Rachel Marie  
Starkweather**

Outstanding Senior  
Award



**Brian Romero**

Outstanding  
Graduate Student  
Award

**“The professors, staff and  
faculty in the School of  
Engineering and in the  
Department of Mechanical  
Engineering have made  
my experience at UNM  
incredible.”**

**— Rachel Starkweather**



# Department of Nuclear Engineering



**Christian Alexander  
Arguello**

Outstanding  
Sophomore Award



**Mekiel R. Olguin**

Outstanding Junior  
Award



**Lauren M. Crabtree**

Outstanding Senior  
Award



**Phoenix Baldez**

Outstanding  
Graduate Student  
Award

“Since the effects of  
nuclear science do not stop  
in the lab, we should work  
to include a diverse set of  
backgrounds and opinions  
on the matters we discuss.”

— Phoenix Baldez

# FACULTY AWARDS



**Nicholas Ferenchak**  
Junior Faculty  
Teaching Excellence  
Award



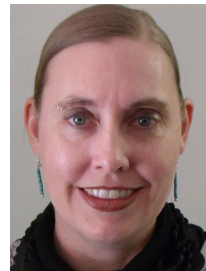
**Osman Anderoglu**  
Junior Faculty  
Research Excellence  
Award



**Andrew Shreve**  
Senior Faculty  
Teaching Excellence  
Award



**Meeko Oishi**  
Senior Faculty  
Research Excellence  
Award



**Vanessa Svihla**  
Harrison Faculty  
Recognition Award

## About the Harrison Faculty Recognition Award

The Harrison Faculty Recognition Award was established in 2005. The award honors Stanley E. Harrison, who received his master's degree in electrical engineering from UNM, and is awarded to mid-level faculty who have a demonstrated commitment to community service, are recognized by their peers, and are dedicated to engineering education.

# STAFF AWARDS



**Yolanda Sanchez**  
Civil, Construction  
and Environmental  
Engineering



**Shannon Siderius**  
Mechanical  
Engineering



**Elsa Maria Castillo**  
Engineering Student  
Success Center



**Some of the dean's office staff pose by the Formula SAE car after the 2019 Annual Awards.**



# SPECIAL AWARDS



**Dominica Bennett**  
Minority Engineering  
Programs  
Leadership Award



**Kody Rope Pierce  
Becenti**  
Minority Engineering  
Programs  
Leadership Award

“I have been told many times that construction is a male-dominated work force, but I am trying to break into that field and hope to be a role model for younger kids. Construction is for women.”

— **Dominica Bennett**

# SPECIAL AWARDS



**Carl Alexander Willis**  
Glenn Whan Award

## ABOUT THE GLENN WHAN AWARD

The Dr. Glenn Whan Memorial Award is an award to benefit students, faculty, and staff in the School of Engineering.

The winner was selected by a committee appointed by the dean, based on the following criteria:

- Community/school service
- Professional/academic achievements/recognition
- Participation in professional/academic organizations
- Reflections of Dr. Whan's qualities of strong commitment to teaching and to students — exceptionally high standards, dedication, and scientific excellence.

DeBow Freed, who earned a nuclear engineering degree from The University of New Mexico, has donated \$50,000 to establish the award.

Glenn Whan was a former professor of chemical and nuclear engineering at UNM.