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
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.
“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

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 Piroscafo
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
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.
Some of the dean’s office staff pose by the Formula SAE car after the 2019 Annual Awards.
“I have been told many times that construction is a male-dominated workforce, 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
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.