2021 ANNUAL AWARDS

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

It is hard to believe that we are completing yet another academic year under the very strange environment of the pandemic that shook apart our lives more than a year ago. Although this year has seen a lot of promise in terms of progress with the disease (including the rollout of several effective vaccines now widely available), much uncertainty remains as we end another semester. But despite it all, we have once again persevered.

I know I am very much looking forward to getting back to normal campus activities — seeing students, faculty and staff, and sharing in celebrations like the one we have had for many years to honor the annual award winners in the Courtyard on a beautiful, sunny spring day. Thanks to the hard work of scientists (and engineers), I hold firm that we will soon be able to safely mingle and connect with colleagues and family members. Unfortunately, this progress did not happen soon enough for a safe celebration in person this year.

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 during these challenging times, I am even more proud to witness the hard work, dedication and creativity of students, faculty and staff to not only get the job done, but get the job done at the highest level.

Congratulations to all of our honorees this year. I wish you all success, health and happiness in the future.

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** – Open to any tenured faculty member
- **RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, JUNIOR LEVEL** – Open to tenure-track faculty who have not yet received tenure
- **TEACHING EXCELLENCE, SENIOR LEVEL** – Open to tenured faculty, senior lecturers and principal lecturers
- **TEACHING EXCELLENCE, JUNIOR LEVEL** – Open to tenure-track faculty who have not yet received tenure, as well as 9-month lecturers (lecturer I, II, III)
David Whitten was the 2020 Innovation Fellow, presented by UNM Rainforest Innovations (formerly STC.UNM) to honor his more than 50 years as a scientist and academic.
Students from the Center for Water and the Environment lab in the Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering have been working with Explora! to bring hands-on learning to students during the pandemic.
Department of Computer Science

Mike T. Dinh
Outstanding Sophomore Award

John A. Ringer
Outstanding Junior Award

Zach A. Morrell
Outstanding Senior Award

Torin J. Adamson
Outstanding Graduate Student Award

U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland (now secretary of the interior under President Biden) visited the Department of Computer Science in February 2020.
Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering

Tiamike Dudley
Outstanding Sophomore Award

Clarizza Morales Chacon
Outstanding Junior Award

Alexander Glick
Outstanding Senior Award

Tohid Khalili
Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Students work in the MARHES lab in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2018.
Renderings of the UNM Formula Society of Automotive Engineers (FSAE) cars — internal combustion (left) and electric. For the first time this year, UNM competed in the electric vehicle (EV) category, placing No. 1. In a separate event, the internal combustion engine team placed fourth.
Department of Nuclear Engineering

Ethan Krammer
Outstanding Sophomore Award

Steven Showalter
Outstanding Junior Award

Dalton Irvin
Outstanding Senior Award

Mingfu He
Outstanding Graduate Student Award

Khaled Talaat
Outstanding Graduate Student 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

Nada Abdelhack
Engineering Student Success Center

Heather Armstrong
Computer Science

Anna Mae Apodaca
Mechanical Engineering
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.