THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

FALL CONVOCATION

Saturday, December 14, 2019
Kiva Auditorium, Albuquerque Convention Center
BOARD OF REGENTS

The laws of New Mexico provide for a Board of Regents which is responsible for the governance of The University of New Mexico. The Board’s power to govern the University includes fiduciary responsibility for the assets and programs of the University, establishment of goals and policies to guide the University, and oversight of the functioning of the University.

The Board is comprised of seven members who are appointed by the governor of New Mexico, with the consent of the Senate, for staggered terms of six years except for the student regent, who is appointed for a two-year term. The governor and the secretary of education are designated as ex-officio, non-voting members.

The Regents
Douglas M. Brown, President
Kimberly Sanchez Rael, Vice President
Sandra K. Begay, Secretary-Treasurer
Robert M. Doughty III
Marron Lee
Robert L. Schwartz
Melissa C. Henry, Student Regent

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Message from the President

Congratulations, Class of 2019!

On behalf of the entire University of New Mexico community, we are proud to honor your achievements today. We call this celebration a “commencement” because the word means “a beginning or start.” This new beginning signals the end of one path, but it is also the start of lifelong opportunities for adventure and success.

Commencement is a tradition that marks the intersection of the past and the future. In New Mexico, we know the value of traditions. Our rich culture is founded on the wisdom that has been handed down from our elders, and is our legacy from all the individuals who have strived to make their way in this rugged, beautiful land. Our traditions keep us connected to the lessons of the past. Our traditions are also the launch pad for our future. Today, as we honor your accomplishments as graduates of the University of New Mexico, we are celebrating your endless possibilities. Great universities foster discovery in every discipline. At UNM, we wish to give our graduates the courage and wisdom to ask challenging questions and the perseverance and skill to discover the answers. As you look ahead, I hope you will apply that spirit of inquiry in all aspects of your life.

In times of uncertainty and turmoil, remember that your education has prepared you to take on the world. I hope you will build on all that our University has given you. You can take knowledge to new heights. You can dare to imagine, then realize your greatest dreams. You can make a better world, a better community, a better family, and a better self through the power of your education. Again, congratulations!

Always remember that you have a home here at the University of New Mexico. You are part of the pack.

Go Lobos!
Convocation Program

Processional

FACULTY MARSHAL
Walter Gerstle, Professor Emeritus, Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

BANNER CARRIER
Leyna Aragon, Computer Science

PROCESSIONAL MUSIC
“Pomp and Circumstance March Number 1,” Composed by Sir Edward Elgar
“Procession of the Nobles,” Composed by Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov
Performed by The New Mexico Brass Quintet

MASTER OF CEREMONIES
Andrew Schuler, Professor of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Barbara Lopez, BSCS ’86, PNM Resources, program manager of IT

STUDENT SPEAKERS
Lauren Jaramillo, Ph.D., Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering ’19
Rachel Starkweather, B.S., Mechanical Engineering ’19

PRESENTATION OF BREECE AWARD
Presenter: Edl Schamiloglu, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation
Awardee: Anna Chavez, B.S., Computer Science ’19

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES
Andrew Schuler, Professor of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

RECESSIONAL
Platform Party

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING ADMINISTRATION

Christos Christodoulou, Dean, School of Engineering
Edl Schamiloglu, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation
Abhaya Datye, Chair, Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Susan Bogus Halter, Professor, Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering
Darko Stefanovic, Chair, Department of Computer Science
Ramiro Jordan, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Yu-Lin Shen, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering
Adam Hecht, Professor, Department of Nuclear Engineering

FACULTY MARSHAL

Walter Gerstle, Professor Emeritus, Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Barbara Lopez, BSCS ’86, PNM Resources, program manager of IT

STUDENT SPEAKER

Lauren Jaramillo, Ph.D., Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering ’19
Keynote Speaker

Barbara Lopez
B.S., Computer Science ’86; program manager of IT, PNM Resources

Barbara Lopez is not the kind of person who likes to sit still. From the time she was born, she’s been on the move ever since.

Her father was in the military, so she got a taste of traveling early. Her family roots are in Albuquerque, but she was born in Arizona, and when Barbara was growing up, the family moved to Spain, Virginia, Panama, Argentina, Washington, D.C., then finally back to Albuquerque.

“When it was happening, I was not too thrilled to have to move around so much and make new friends all the time, but as an adult, I’m glad I had that experience,” she said.

Barbara described herself as a self-motivated student, always striving for good grades. But even though she excelled in school and especially in math, she did not immediately seek higher education, choosing instead to take a job with the government. She was married and working, and it was actually her boss who suggested that she pursue a degree, so she began taking computer science courses at UNM while working full time.

She admitted that pursuing a degree was hard, especially while continuing to work, but her dedication and hard work got her through, and she earned her bachelor’s degree in computer science in 1986. After graduating, she worked in a variety of positions through the years, including for Science and Engineering Associates, the Air Force Research Laboratory, the director of IT infrastructure at PNM, and the senior director of IT at the New Mexico Gas Company. Currently, she is IT program manager at PNM Resources.

Barbara gravitates to leadership roles – often managing a mostly-male staff – and believes in taking a personal interest in each employee in order to find their unique talents. “I like to get the best out of people. I’ve always been good at that.”

She is dedicated to her career in IT management, but she’s equally passionate about a long list of community service, mentoring, volunteer, and networking groups she’s involved with. From book clubs, wine clubs, golf, soccer, and kickboxing to serving on the board of the New Mexico Technology Council, the UNM School of Engineering Alumni Advisory Board, and the Domestic Violence Resource Center, her volunteer and community service list is long. She has also mentored girls for the YWCA TechGYRLS afterschool program and at Bellehaven Elementary School Science Fair and has volunteered in numerous other capacities in the community such as Start Up Weekend Women, Albuquerque Reads, Junior Achievement, Roadrunner Food Bank, Best Buddies, and the American Youth Soccer Organization. “I like helping people succeed,” Barbara says.

And when she’s not busy with all of that, she continues to love travel. Even in leaner times, she saved money for this purpose. So far, she’s been to 23 countries, including a memorable trip to Paris in summer 2019 to see the Women’s World Cup, where she traveled and saw the city by herself, which she said was life-changing. “It was so cool to have all that independence.”

She also is an avid Lobo fan, collecting a wide array of Lobo gear. Barbara has three grown sons in Colorado and a granddaughter.
Rachel Starkweather, an Albuquerque native, credits her family with giving her the support to develop a passion for math, science, and learning in general.

Her grandfather was a nuclear physicist, and though he lived in Montana, he was actively involved in making sure she and her two sisters had a strong foundation in math. “My parents really cared about education and helped us as far as they could, but my grandfather helped us with math past algebra, even buying our textbook and working out problems with us on the phone. It really helped to talk out the problems and understand why we got something wrong.”

Though one of her sisters chose medical school, Rachel took a different path. “I want to help people, but I don’t want to be a doctor. Blood makes me queasy.” She liked physics, and even more so, the mechanical engineering field because of its applied aspects.

At UNM, Rachel was involved in Society for Women Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, was an intern at Sandia, and was even the president of the UNM Beekeeping Club. “I hated insects but love honey, and I thought it sounded interesting.”

After graduation, Rachel is planning to study abroad in Scotland with her sister, then finish up one remaining course online. She’s examining her options for graduate school in the fall. She’d like to do research on efficient manufacturing design, control systems, and human factors.

Lauren Jaramillo grew up in the East Mountains and experienced first-hand the importance and challenges of regional water resources from her family’s cattle ranching heritage on the Laguna Reservation. Now, she is earning her Ph.D. in hydraulics and hydrology, with a focus in resilience engineering of human and natural systems with an eye on looking for solutions to the grand challenge of water resources in this arid part of the country.

She first attended New Mexico State, but transferred to UNM to pole-vault for the track and field team and also because of her experience touring the civil engineering facilities. After pursuing her bachelor’s degree in the department and gaining undergraduate research experience with professor Mark Stone, she left to pursue a master’s degree in civil and environmental engineering at Stanford. Although she appreciated the experience, she was happy to return to UNM for her Ph.D. to study again with Stone. “I wanted to make an impact at home,” she said.

And she did soon make an impact, only far away from Albuquerque. In 2016, Lauren led a UNM-wide effort called UNM4Nepal to help rebuild Nepal after the 2015 devastating earthquake. UNM4Nepal focused on a humanitarian engineering project to design and build a community center in one of the hardest-hit districts. Using resilient building practices, the sustainable and low-cost building project served as a model for local community members to rebuild their own homes. UNM4Nepal raised money for construction and hiring of local labor who were trained and overseen by UNM students. “That experience had a big impact on me. It was eye-opening.”

Lauren said her experience at UNM was valuable because of the opportunities she was given. She credits the support of the faculty and staff of the department and the School with giving her the ability to try new things. Even though her area of specialty in water resources is a well-known grand challenge, she is hopeful that the practice of resilience will offer fresh solutions.

She and her husband Jonathan Hebert recently had their first child, and she is planning on practicing engineering part-time through their company LoJo Engineering.
George E. Breece Award

The George E. Breece Award was established in 1921 to honor the UNM School of Engineering senior with the highest grade-point average from each graduating class. The recipients of this award consistently have grade-point averages higher than 4.0, reflecting a majority of A+ grades throughout their undergraduate courses.

Anna Chavez
B.S., Computer Science ’19

Growing up, Anna Chavez knew early that she enjoyed computer science. However, choosing to attend a college or university was still a difficult decision for her.

“College felt like a default, and I had trouble finding a personal desire to go. I was well-prepared, but was intimidated by the change at first.”

Anna was born in Utah, but at age 9, her family moved to northeast Texas, where she graduated from high school. She chose UNM because of her interest in video game development — specifically the Interdisciplinary Film and Digital Media (IFDM) program (now Film and Digital Arts). She could keep a minor in art yet combine that with a strong computer science degree.

“I love storytelling and I like the structure of computer science, so I decided to try video game development, since it seemed like a good way to combine the two. And earning the Regents’ Scholarship sealed the deal for me.”

While at UNM, Anna has had a variety of internships, including the one she has now at Sandia National Laboratories, working in simulation and visualization analysis. She was also active in research with professor Lydia Tapia. She worked two summers and a semester on a project called DockAnywhere, a mobile game which they hope will help answer the unsolved question of how molecular docking works. Anna worked on porting an existing desktop app to a mobile gaming version, which gamifies a simulation and collects crowdsource information. This fall, she got to present a paper on the project in England.

Computer science is known as a tough discipline, so what was Anna’s secret to getting a near-perfect GPA? “I always want to do my best to meet my teacher’s expectations, and usually when you do that, you get an A.”

Although she did well in all of her classes, she said those results didn’t come without effort, and not all concepts came to her automatically. Calculus II and linear algebra and some statistics classes took some additional effort, and even some trips to CAPS for tutoring to make sure she had concepts mastered. A combination of individual study and study groups was the magic combination for her.

Despite her initial apprehension, she calls her time at UNM “a fantastic experience” and is very proud of her academic accomplishments. She also cherishes time “laughing hysterically” with friends, enjoying movies at the SUB, and game nights. In her free time, Anna enjoys board games, video games, storytelling, and has also taken up knitting and crocheting.

Anna plans to continue working at Sandia, but doesn’t have any immediate plans to go to graduate school. “I’ve been in academia awhile, so I want to go into industry. If I go to graduate school, I want to have my own reason to go.”
School of Engineering History

Engineering instruction at The University of New Mexico has a rich tradition, beginning in 1906, with four-year programs in civil, electrical, mechanical, and mining Engineering. The first bachelor of science degree was awarded in June 1912. By 1916, enrollment was at 37 with two or three graduates each year. In 1947, the Department of Chemical Engineering was established, and in 1972 it expanded to the Department of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering. In 2014, the department became two: the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering and the Department of Nuclear Engineering. Computer science courses were initially offered in the mathematics department and in 1976, the Department of Computer Science was established. With the addition of computer engineering to the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1979, the present-day complement of academic departments was in place.

This fall, the UNM School of Engineering enrolled over 1,900 students in nine undergraduate degree programs and nearly 800 students in more than a dozen graduate degree programs. These degrees are offered through the School’s six academic departments and, increasingly, through interdisciplinary and interdepartmental programs. Research is integrated into each degree program in an environment that fosters teamwork, cultural and intellectual diversity, a strong sense of public responsibility, and lifelong learning. An exceptionally active research faculty work in critical and cutting-edge areas, collaborating within UNM and with other universities, the national laboratories, and industry to develop innovative solutions for societal challenges.
Degrees Awarded

Order of Presentation
Department of Computer Science
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Department of Nuclear Engineering
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering
Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering
Biomedical Engineering
Nanoscience and Microsystems Engineering
Optical Science and Engineering

STUDENT HONORS RECOGNITION

"Graduating with Distinction" (symbolized by a † by the student’s name) recognizes the exceptional performance of students who graduate with a master’s or doctor of philosophy degree. The status is determined at the time of the final examination through agreement of the examining committee members, with final approval given by the department chair.
# Computer Science

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anna Chavez</th>
<th>Cailin L. Martinez</th>
<th>Alex M. Schmidt-Gonzales</th>
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<td>Vincent M. Crespin</td>
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**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

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<th>Bianca C. Bologa</th>
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<th>Kristiana Rendon*</th>
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<td>George E. Boujaoude</td>
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<td>Brianna S. Mulligan</td>
<td>Rebecca A. Sousa</td>
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<td>Tyler R. Esterly</td>
<td>Srikanth Muttavarapu*</td>
<td>Dena M. Vigil</td>
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<td>Michael A. Regan</td>
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**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

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<th>Noor E. Abu-El-Rub*</th>
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<td>Abhinav Aggarwal</td>
<td>Qi Lu*</td>
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<td>Geoffrey I. Alexander</td>
<td>George W. Stelle*</td>
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*Summer 2019 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
## Electrical and Computer Engineering

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING

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<td>Marcus K. Holguin*</td>
<td>Rebecca E. Kreitinger*</td>
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<td>Jicard J. Malveaux</td>
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<td>Vinoth Kumar Punniacody</td>
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<td>Nicholas A. Kemp*</td>
<td>Luis A. Sanchez Tapia*</td>
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<td>Seth A. Miller</td>
<td>Justin K. Smith†</td>
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<td>Cheikhna Ahmed Tidiane Sy</td>
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<td>Victor D. Pepel</td>
<td>Adam J. Thorpe**</td>
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<td>Leonardo S. Rossetti*</td>
<td>Jayakrishnan Vijayamohanana*</td>
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<td>Saravanan Mani*</td>
<td>Cole R. Sandin</td>
<td>Shu Wang</td>
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*Summer 2019 Graduate

†Graduating with Distinction
Electrical and Computer Engineering

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING

COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Michael C. Darling
Joshua J. Trujillo

Alvaro E. Ulloa Cerna**

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

Juan J. Faria Briceno†
Joseph D. Gleason

Vijay Saradhi Mangu†
Saadat M. Mishkat Ul Masabih**

*Summer 2019 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
# Mechanical Engineering

## Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

- Hassan Hussain H. Alqahtani
- Jonathan M. Archuleta
- Spencer R. Bickett
- Gabriel W. Brown
- Logan A. Cole
- Jonathan A. Gutierrez
- Garrett D. Heyden
- James D. Hirdman*
- Michael Kindred
- Cameron S. McMahan
- Joseph I. Na
- Anthony Pantano
- Janghan Park
- Blanca F. Ruiz Garcia*
- Jonathan J. Sanchez
- Timothy L. Santos

## Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering

- Rahul Adhikari*
- Nelson G. Amaya
- Erich W. Brown
- Steven J. Denning*
- Wendy Flores
- Jennifer E. Fort
- Daniel Freelong
- Jodie A. Gomez*
- Venkateshwar Rao Gubba*
- Nicholas S. Gurule*
- Gabriella E. Gutierrez
- Rallin M. Harris*
- Luis A. Hernandez*
- Ranjith Doddadka Janardhana

## Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering

- Isaac S. Klickstein
- Anthony R. Menicucci*
- Afroza Shirin*
- Nekoda Van de Werken
- Patrick J. Wayne*

*Summer 2019 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
Nuclear Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

Alvaro Gonzalez

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NUCLEAR ENGINEERING

Alan S. Evans  Brandon J. Martinez
Raymond E. Fasano  Hayley Suitts*

*Summer 2019 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
Chemical and Biological Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Ryan N. Alcalá*
Abdullah M. Alshehri*

Sultan N. Alsuwaidi
Chelsea A. Draper*
Megan B. Senn

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING

Gawad Basheer M. Al Yousif
Kalin R. Baca
Teresa Bradford

Divya J. Prakash
Samantha M. Reyes
Erik C. Strobert

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING

Shanti Kiran Nayak

Raviteja Vangara†

*Summer 2019 Graduate
†Graduating with Distinction
Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
Ryan C. Adams*  Dominic L. Depauli  Chris Ortiz
Thomas L. Archuleta  Hannah K. Greig  Dominic R. Ortiz†
Thomas Avila  Daniel J. Griesel  Mileena Sanchez
Edwin Bergeron  Edgar Hernandez  Ameer Slim
Abe Bortz-Johnson  Dacia Jacquez  Alysha R. Toya
Brandon Joshua M. Cruz  Joseph W. Kaberlein  Nicole Trujillo

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
Brody L. Crawford  Austin J. Mansfield  Jalen Williams
D’Andra J. DeFlora  Mitchell J. Martinez
Ryan A. Gallegos  John E. Travis

MASTER OF ENGINEERING
Naomi R. Gaede  Anthony M. Lampert*

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING
Samuel H. Boyce†  David A. Forrest  Jeremy J. Starr
Tybur Q. Casuse††  Dilendra Maharjan  Sugam Tandukar
Alexis M. Corning Padilla††  Ayush R. Shahi*

MASTER OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
Shawn Burnett*  Sabina V. Khusainova  Matthew T. Segura*
Daniel V. Guerrero  Adam K. Schwartz*

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING
Rahulreddy Chennareddy  Razieh Nadafianshahamabadi*  Mohamed Nabil Shaikh
Jacob W. Collison*  Philip Roveto  Carmen A. Velasco Rivera
Lauren Jaramillo  Fausto Alejandro Rodriguez Bravo
Paulina R. Lima Guaman  Gauhar Sabih
Claudia Garrido Martins††  Betsy M. Shafer

*Summer 2019 Graduate  †Graduating with Distinction
INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Biomedical Engineering

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ENGINEERING

Nicole M. Candelaria          Natalia D. McIver          Qing Sun
Lewis I. Larsen               Hannah M. Russert          Achyut K. Warrier
Spencer A. McDonald           Edward W. Strach           Johnathan A. Yarmey

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ENGINEERING

Phuong A. Nguyen

Nanoscience and Microsystems Engineering

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NANOSCIENCE AND MICROSYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Sudha Ananthakrishnan*        Caleb E. Glaser           Mark V. Reymatias
Zachary R. Brounstein         Jack W. Higgins           Michael G. Wallace
Brandon Burnside              Malcolm S. Reese          Neal Wostbrock

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN NANOSCIENCE AND MICROSYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Godwin Amo-Kwao              Adan Myers Y. Gutierrez
Sarah J. Kintner              Cayla M. Nelson

*Summer 2019 Graduate         †Graduating with Distinction
Optical Science and Engineering

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OPTICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Diana R. Magana-Contreras

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN OPTICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

James P. Hendrie
Ahmad Mansoori*

Shima Nezhadbadeh
Chih Feng Wang

*Summer 2019 Graduate
†Graduating with Distinction
What's next for you?

UNM offers several engineering-related all-online master’s degree options!

Internet of Things
Master’s in computer engineering • Learn relevant skills in hardware/software, smart grid, security for smart cities, autonomous and electric vehicles and much more • Ranked most affordable online computer engineering degree by OnlineU.
More at iotonline.unm.edu

Space Systems Engineering
Master’s in electrical engineering or mechanical engineering • One of first master’s-level space systems engineering programs in the country • Be career-ready in orbital mechanics, space situational awareness, spacecraft design, satellite communication and more.
More at eespaceonline.unm.edu or mespaceonline.unm.edu

Master of Construction Management
Unique degree that combines business management skills specifically focused on the construction industry • Learn about safety law, constructment document, LEED standards, and much more. • Named one of the best in the country by OnlineMasters.com.
More at mcmonline.unm.edu.
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Congratulations, graduates! Now that you have graduated, you are automatically a member of the UNM Alumni Association. There are no dues. Visit the UNM Alumni Association website for information and a complete listing of benefits at http://www.unmalumni.com.

We also welcome you to the School of Engineering alumni family. The UNM School of Engineering strives to keep you connected to the School in the most convenient way possible. As you move forward, please keep us informed regarding address changes, career moves, and significant events in your life. If you are interested in collaborating on an activity to engage fellow alums, let us know. Please contact us at engineeringalumni@unm.edu.