

2020

School of Engineering
ANNUAL AWARDS

CENTENNIAL
ENGINEERING
CENTER

 SCHOOL OF
ENGINEERING

WELCOME FROM THE DEAN

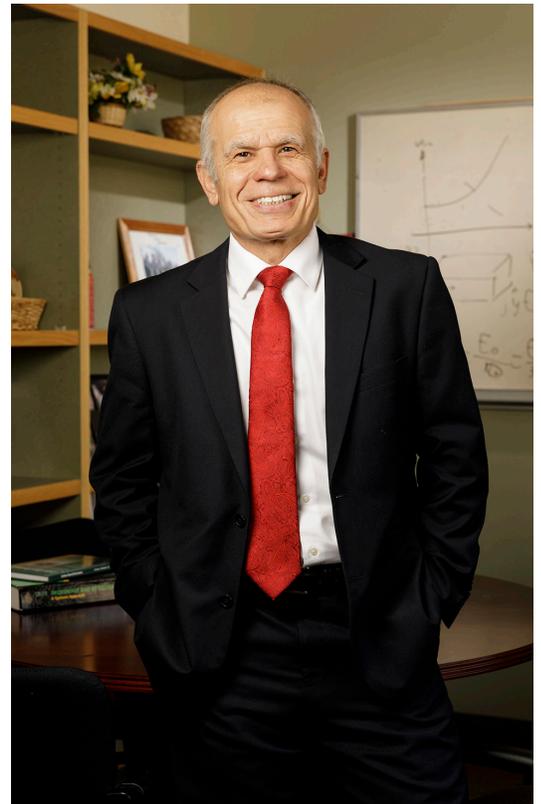
I think we would all agree that this semester was far from what anyone could have ever imagined. I, like most of you, was looking forward to having our annual end-of-the-year celebration to honor the hard work of our outstanding students, faculty and staff, enjoying lunch in the Courtyard on a beautiful, 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:

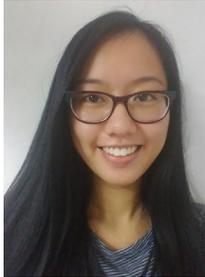
RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, SENIOR LEVEL is awarded to a full professor or 6 or more years at UNM in a tenure-track position.

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



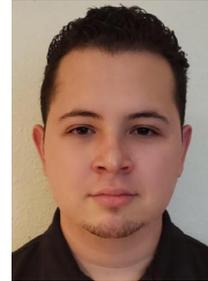
**Nicholas Christian
Ross**

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.