Dean Garrey Carruthers, College of Business, met with Secretary Skandara of the Public Education Department and Gene Moser, Director of the Personnel Department for the State regarding ethics training. Carruthers has been invited by the Governor's Office to lead three ethics sessions with the Governor's appointees and Cabinet members on December 21, 2011. The Daniels Foundation, which awarded NMSU's College of Business $1.25 million over the next five years to develop a principle-based ethics program, has signaled a willingness to invest additional money into NMSU’s ethics training programs for public officials and employees.

Thanks to quick action by Ricardo Rel, Ben Woods, and President Barbara Couture, NMSU modified its capital outlay plan to include the Institute for Public Policy building (the remodeling of Hershel Zohn theatre for the College of Business and the Domenici Institute), which is now is on the list for consideration for funding by the New Mexico legislature. This is the first big step in matching the $9 million reserved from the IPP federal grant and a necessary step toward investing the federal money before the grant expires.

The College of Business has announced that Dr. Steve Elias was appointed as the Department Head of the Management Department. Elias, at the recommendation of the faculty, has been serving as the Interim Department Head. His selection as Department Head was unanimously endorsed by Management Department faculty members.

NMSU’s College of Business celebrated another great graduation. The college’s outstanding undergraduate student was Marco LeBaron, who graduated with two majors and two minors in 3½ years with a 4.00 GPA while competing as a bull rider, starting a trucking company and selling pecans to Europe. The outstanding Masters student was Jon Blazak, Masters in Accountancy, who served 2 years as editor of The Roundup newspaper and made some revolutionary changes in their business practices. Both were honored by the NMSU Alumni Association for Fall 2011. These are two folks who will undoubtedly be successful Aggies!

The ribbon cutting for the Arrowhead Park Early College High School was very well attended – over 400 folks. Speakers included President Couture, the Superintendent Stan Rounds, three cabinet members (Skandara, Garcia, and Bussey), Margie Huerta, and a host of others including Jennifer Amis, the first Principal of the school and a very popular leader of the project. One of the students did a very nice job of extolling the virtues of an early college high school. The Bridge is given most of the credit for finding the concept and seeing it through to fruition. Dean Morehead of the College of Education was instrumental in finding this best practice. KRWG-TV video: Early College HS opens.

The next Domenici Institute forum will be held January 17, 2012 in the KRWG-TV studio. The Institute will host Dr. Bob Graboyes, Senior Fellow for Health and Economics at the National Federation of Independent Business. Dr. Graboyes will discuss the 2010 health care reform law – Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – and what it means for small businesses.

The Domenici Institute is pleased to report that the proceedings book from the 2010 Domenici Public Policy Conference was a winner in the 2011 New Mexico Book Awards announced in November 2011. Senator Pete Domenici's Legacy 2010, edited by Vicki Taggart and Sara Patricolo, took first place in the political/current events category. The proceedings were published by Rio Grande Books.

The Domenici Institute has received its order of more than 500 copies of the documentary, “Domenici”. The documentary distribution includes high schools across New Mexico, documentary donors and participants, conference sponsors, Senator Domenici’s family, the Domenici Archives, and other individuals and historical archives. To date, the documentary has aired on KRWG-TV, KNME-TV, and KOB-TV.

NMSU Arrowhead Center’s intellectual property unit is continuing work with NMSU inventors at all stages of technology development. A College of Engineering alum submitted an invention disclosure of work originating in his senior Capstone project on which he has continued development after graduation. It is encouraging to see alumni maintaining contact with NMSU resources – these sorts of activities are representative of the extended network of community on and off-campus connections we are actively cultivating. Additionally, work is continuing in cooperation with patent counsel Peacock Myers on an emerging speech processing technology developed by Dr. Laura Boucheron (Assistant Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering), Dr. Phillip De Leon (Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering) and Steven Sandoval (graduate student, Electrical and Computer Engineering). Associates at Peacock Myers are drafting a utility patent application for submission to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

NMSU researchers Nagamany Khandan (Civil and Geological Engineering), Shuguang Deng (Chemical Engineering), and Geoffrey Smith (Biology) are co-inventors on a soon-to-be-issued U.S. patent entitled Method and Apparatus for Membrane-Based, Two-Stage Gas Production From Solid Biomaterials. This technology adds to NMSU’s growing contributions in the energy sector and represents another potential licensing opportunity for Arrowhead Center, Inc. Additionally, the project highlights the importance of cross-disciplinary research, as experts from diverse academic backgrounds cooperate to realize larger research goals.

NMSU Arrowhead Center staff teamed with the Physical Science Laboratory (PSL) in hosting the 13th annual Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) 2011 Conference held December 6-8, 2011, at the Hyatt Tamaya Resort Hotel on the Santa Ana Pueblo, NM. The conference included two days of general sessions on airspace access and topics of interest to military, civilian and private sector attendees, and a classified day of presentations on military and homeland security issues. The conference hosts speakers and attendees from a variety of federal agencies (e.g., Department of Defense, NASA, Department of Homeland Security, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Geological Survey), aviation user groups (e.g., Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association), universities, and private industry and provides networking opportunities for UAS industry users, providers, and implementers. Not only is the TAAC conference an exceptional standalone event, it also serves as a component in larger efforts underway through the New Mexico UAS Council to establish our state as a key player in the industry. Over 500 attendees participated in the general sessions, including representatives of several businesses located in New Mexico. Aerospace, including UAS, is a primary economic development focus area of Arrowhead Center.

The NMSU Arrowhead Center’s 2012 Innoventure Competition, which brings together middle and high school students from across the state for a technology development and business planning contest, is ramping up. Forty teams were identified based on innovative ideas, clear project planning, and business feasibility. Each team will receive written feedback on their materials, as well as a $150 stipend to begin
purchasing prototype materials for their project. We are particularly pleased to be drawing more teams from the northern portion of New Mexico, due in large part to the efforts of Erika Dunn, the AHC staffer who visited a number of schools in that region to promote the Innoventure program.

One of Studio G’s first resident companies, La Semilla Food Center, is the Arrowhead Center business incubator’s first graduate. Boasting impressive growth over the past year, as evidenced by a considerable increase in organization membership and successful events such as its “Food Summit,” La Semilla moved on from Studio G in December 2011. La Semilla’s successful departure will open resources for new residents in the spring 2012 semester; a call for applications is currently open.

Two new NMSU Arrowhead Center tenants, Silicon Mesa and Solutionhead, have moved into the Genesis Center. Silicon Mesa is an NMSU alumni-owned venture working on electronic medical records technology to address emerging issues in healthcare and healthcare regulation. Solutionhead is an NMSU student/alumni company exploring software solutions for large business computing requirements. Solutionhead recently added a new programmer to their payroll.

Dr. Andrea Tawney, Assistant Dean, Development, 575.646.4917

Recently, after donating $250,000 toward creation of the Lionel Haight Professorship in Accounting in NMSU’s College of Business, Mike and Judy Johnson issued a challenge to fellow NMSU alumni and members of the business community to match an additional $100,000 gift to establish the first fully endowed chair for the accounting department. “Philanthropy to us means looking at where society is and what needs to be done, then looking at your passions and things you find most important and where you can make a difference, and then finding that nexus, or overlap, and putting your time and money on that,” the Johnsons said. The “Judy Johnson Challenge” will match gifts up to $100,000 over the next two years.

Dr. Bruce Huhmann, Chair, Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative, 575.646.4153

The Daniels Fund was generally pleased with the many activities that NMSU’s Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative program and its Fellows are undertaking, and were particularly interested in the Certified Advocate for Public Ethics program to offer ethics education to government employees and officials. The Daniels Ethics Consortium met on campus during the last week of November 2011. Deans for the Universities of New Mexico and Wyoming, Colorado State University, the University of Colorado/Colorado Springs, University of Utah, and the University of Denver hobnobbed with one another at the NMSU golf clubhouse.

At the invitation of Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry, Dr. Garrey Carruthers (Dean of NMSU’s College of Business and NMSU VP for Economic Development), gave his presentation on Cowboy Ethics to the mayor and his senior staff at the Albuquerque Balloon Museum. About 75 city leaders were in attendance. Outreach to public officials is part of the Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative.

Dr. Ed Scribner, Department Head, Accounting/Information Systems, 575.646.4901

Masters of Accountancy graduates Mina Alinejad, Christy Allison, Sujan Bhandari, Jon Blazak, Wesley Burghardt, Kalyn Garcia, Michael McGinley, Fati Mint Amar, Rebecca Pate, Matthew Ray, and Jean Marie Stobbe were hooded by Program Director Dr. Cindy Seipel during a ceremony held the night prior to the Fall 2011 commencement. The Hooding Ceremony provides an intimate setting to honor the graduates and recognize the support of their families and friends. The evening’s featured speakers were Matt Ray, representing the candidates, and Dr. Kevin Melendrez, representing the faculty. College of Business Dean Garrey Carruthers attended the hooding ceremony and congratulated each candidate on their accomplishment. (Videos)

A talented group of NMSU Information Systems students came away with two awards at the 2011 Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) Region 3 Student Conference at Sam Houston State University. Over 175 students from universities with AITP chapters attended the conference. Kaelynn Purdy and Evelyn Lujan placed second in the database design contest, and Lorenzo Stanton placed second in the mobile apps competition. Evelyn served as NMSU’s Information Systems
tutor under the Kevin Johnson (NMSU alum and CEO, Juniper Networks) tutorial program. Dr. Carlo Mora-Monge is NMSU’s AITP chapter advisor.

Dr. Meghan Downes, Assistant Economics Professor in the College of Business, attended a meeting sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy as an invited attendee with the major national labs to discuss modeling the economic and environmental impact of biofuels. Only 30 individuals from around the country were invited to attend this meeting at the University of Arizona. Downes also chaired a session on economic and environmental analysis at the Fourth Annual Algal Biomass Organization Summit. There were more than 800 attendees at this international conference held in Minneapolis, MN.

Drs. Larry Blank, Doug Gegax, Dave Smith, and Ms. Cindy Blume delivered three separate week-long training courses covering the regulation of electric utilities, natural gas distribution utilities, and interstate pipeline utilities. These courses are offered by the NMSU Center for Public Utilities. Attendance exceeded 160 professionals who work for state regulatory commissions, consumer advocates, and utility companies from across the U.S. and abroad.

The NMSU Arrowhead Center’s PROSPER project (Jim Peach, Regents Professor, is the Principal Investigator) was one of the sponsors of a major energy conference in El Paso, TX. Other sponsors included the University of Texas at El Paso and the Paso del Norte Group. NMSU President Couture was one of the major speakers at the conference. Dean of the College of Business, Garrey Carruthers, moderated a panel on regional energy investment. The keynote address was given by Hunter Hunt (Hunt Oil Companies).

Dr. Liz Ellis, Department Head, Finance/Business Law, 575.646.3201

The Finance Department, College of Business, presented awards to three Fall 2011 graduating seniors: Di Jiao received the Alumni Association award for Outstanding Achievement in Finance, Michael "Miko" Peter Alejandro received the ConocoPhillips award for Outstanding Achievement in Finance, and Adam Rivera received BOTH the Peter Wichert Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Finance and the Mountain States Insurance Group Award for Outstanding Achievement in Risk Management and Insurance. Congratulations to these excellent students!

The National Alliance Research Academy (NARA) offers aspiring young professionals the opportunity to use approved university insurance and risk management coursework to obtain credit toward the distinguished Certified Insurance Risk Manager (CRM) designations. NMSU is the thirteenth university to have a course approved for this program (FIN 326: Business Risk Management). By passing this course with at least a “C” and taking one other CRM exam while in college, students also have the opportunity to obtain a uniquely different designation that NARA offers, the University Associate Certified Risk Manager (UACRM) designation. This designation was created to give young professionals recognition for their hard work while also giving them a distinct advantage when entering the insurance and risk management workforce.

Dr. Steven Elias, Interim Department Head, Management, 575.646.1201

New Mexico State University business professor Bonnie Daily is the recipient of the Dr. John P. Loveland Professorship in Quality Management. This is the first time the professorship, which was established in 2007, has not gone to its namesake, retired NMSU management professor emeritus John Loveland. “It is an honor and privilege to be awarded the Loveland Professorship. John Loveland has been a special mentor to me throughout my career. He has distinguished himself as an academic leader at NMSU for over 40 years as a faculty member and now as an emeritus faculty,” Daily said. “John actually hired me 20 years ago when he was the department head in management.” The professorship was founded with a gift of $125,000, which was matched by the state, from a former Loveland student, Jeffrey Snyder, and his wife, Theresa. Snyder, who now lives in Michigan, was inspired to make his gift by Loveland’s dedication to teaching and his students.

Dr. Grace Ann Rosile, Associate Professor in the Management Department, received a grant from College of Business faculty development funds to support the visit of Dr. Gregory Cajete, Native
American Studies Chair at the University of New Mexico. Joe Gladstone, PhD candidate in the Management Department, coordinated Cajete’s three-day visit with other campus groups. Joe Graham’s Indian Economic Development program and Justin McHorse’s American Indian Programs office sponsored a reception for Dr. Cajete. While here Cajete presented a research seminar on “Creating Curriculum for Sustainable Business: An Indigenous Perspective.” He also met with faculty and doctoral students from the College of Business, Counseling Psychology, Education, and Anthropology, including Drs. Pepion and Grayshield. In addition, a group of Daniels Fund ethics Fellows met with Cajete to discuss what the business world can learn from tribal ethics. We look forward to ongoing collaborations and future visits with Dr. Cajete.

In December 2011 Dr. David Boje, management Professor, along with doctoral students enrolled in MGT 655 (Systems Seminar) presented to NMSU’s President, Provost and VP of Research the findings of a semester-long project investigating the several “sustainability” approaches that have emerged at NMSU since the 1960s. The presenters illustrated how sustainability maps into NMSU’s seven Building The Vision goals. The response from upper administration was positive, including inviting further presentations to the University Research Council, Academic Deans’ Council, and meetings of Department Heads in months to come.

Dr. Phil Benson, management Professor, served as the Conference Chair for the annual meeting of the Baltic Management Research Association, held in Kaunas, Lithuania. The theme of the conference was “The Customer as a Change Driving Force.” Benson gave the keynote address on how to use human resource management practices to develop a sense of service orientation among employees and in an organization’s culture.

Dr. Judith Weisinger, management Associate Professor, co-organized the pre-conference Professional Development Workshop for Diverse Scholars and Leaders at the annual meeting of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) in Toronto, Canada. The workshop provided teaching, research and career advice for masters’ candidates considering doctoral degrees, and for current doctoral students. Weisinger also organized and chaired a featured conference colloquy session, “Why Diversity? Better Research, Better Teaching, Better Practice.”

Mr. Pat Gavin, Director, PGA Golf Management Program, Marketing Dept., 575.646.7686

Thirty-one new freshmen in the NMSU Marketing Department’s PGA Golf Management™ Program completed their first PGA on-line exam. We are proud to announce 25 of the 31 students successfully passed this exam (an 80.6% pass rate), with one of the students scoring a perfect 100% answering 70 out of 70 questions correctly. This pass rate puts NMSU at the top of the testing ladder among the other nineteen PGA universities.

Dr. Janet Green, Director, Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism Management, 575.646.2227

Dr. Janet Green met with Monique Johnson, New Mexico Tourism Secretary, in November 2011. Discussions were held on potential changes in statewide Co-Op marketing funding, and budgets. Secretary Johnson took a tour of the School of HRTM.

The HRTM Board of Advisors met in Albuquerque, NM, at the headquarters of the National Distributing Company (NDC), a major distributor of liquor products in the United States. Mr. Bob Daws, President of NDC and a member of the HRTM Board of Advisors, hosted the meeting. The major topic was the donation of $250,000 by Ms. Marion Lawrence, who also attended the meeting, for the construction of the Bobby Lee Lawrence Academy of Wine in the HRTM area in Gerald Thomas Hall. College of Business Assistant Dean Dr. Andrea Tawney gave a development presentation to the board members, with discussions ranging from construction to wine donations and room usage. Expected completion of the Academy of Wine is Feb-March of 2012.