Officials of the Daniels Foundation have advised us that they are very pleased with the College of Business’s first annual report and progress in our Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative (DFEI). The Daniels Foundation has extended the grant for a second year. The annual grant is for $250,000. Thanks to Bruce Huhmann, Department of Marketing and DFEI Chair, and Janice Wright, Deans’ office, for their good work on all aspects of the grant. The Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative is a partnership with eight business schools at colleges and universities in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. The initial grant and ongoing support for the initiative is provided by the Daniels Fund, a private foundation established by cable television pioneer Bill Daniels, who was widely recognized for his ethics and integrity in business.

NMSU’s College of Business and UNM’s Anderson School of Management hosted their second Bill Daniels Teaching Business Ethics Workshop on January 6-7, 2011. Keynote speaker was Sherron Watkins, the whistleblower at Enron, who presented her experiences in “The Importance of Ethical Corporate Leadership.” Faculty shared their ideas on teaching resources, tools, and techniques for incorporating ethics instruction into courses throughout the curriculum. These jointly hosted semiannual conferences alternate between northern and southern New Mexico locations.

Approximately forty people attended a statewide Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) stakeholder meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in November 2010. The meeting was co-hosted by New Mexico State University’s Physical Science Laboratory and Arrowhead Center. Representatives from academia, government, and industry participated in briefings and discussions on UAS research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) in New Mexico. Outcomes of the meeting included an awareness of the various UAS activities in the state, and identification of joint opportunities and specific challenges to the growth of the UAS industry in New Mexico. The meeting led to the formation of a collaboration among the parties for the joint purpose of establishing New Mexico as a leader in UAS RDT&E.

In November 2010 Meghan Starbuck, assistant professor in the Department of Economics and International Business, testified before the Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Committee at the state capitol in Santa Fe. Her topic was “The Economic Impacts of Algae Biofuels on New Mexico.” Associate professor Chris Erickson, also of the Economics Department, appeared before the Economic and Rural Development Committee and testified on the “Economic Impact of Rural Electric Cooperatives on the New Mexico Economy.”

Larry Blank (associate professor, Department of Economics and International Business) provided assistance to the City of Clovis on matters pertaining to future utility water supply and appropriate regulatory treatment, issues which are critical to the farming, commercial, and residential activities in that area. The work was provided pro bono as a public service from New Mexico State University.

Management doctoral student Joe Gladstone was invited to present his student experiences and research to potential business doctoral students at the annual PhD Project Conference in Chicago in November 2010. Joe also met with potential American Indian students to share his work and experiences from a Native American perspective.