The Domenici Public Policy Conference was a tremendous success. Including students, 650 people registered to attend the conference and each individual session had attendance of over 400. The first day’s speakers were impressive, discussing financial reform, border security, and national security. Senator Domenici closed the day chatting with Sam Donaldson regarding the state of the nation with emphasis on the national debt and the Senator’s thoughts on the consequences of carrying this much debt. The second day was devoted to the 2010 elections, with both Gubernatorial candidates given one hour to make their case and answer questions, preceding a wide ranging discussion of national elections that featured guests Sam Donaldson, Karl Rove and Joe Lockhart. Thanks to Ann Morgan, the Program Manager for the Domenici Institute; Sharon Jones; Janet Green; Justin Bannister; Ramon Dominguez; Chris Anaya; some very bright student panelists; and the College of Business Ambassadors, mentored by Sylvia Acosta. In addition, many members of the New Mexico State University community, including several Regents, the President, Provost, senior executives, and employees at University Communications, Office of Facilities and Services, Parking, Information and Communication Technologies, NMSU Police, Aramark, and the Corbett Center were instrumental in making this conference a success.

Papers have been signed and money has been released to build the Arrowhead Park Early College High School at New Mexico State University’s Arrowhead Business and Research Park. The new high school is to be ready for the fall of 2011. The school’s first cohort of 117 students currently attend ECHS at the Doña Ana Community College on the main NMSU Las Cruces campus. On their own initiative, the ECHS students selected the school name, mascot and colors and submitted their recommendations to the Las Cruces Public School Board. On September 21st, the board accepted the student recommendations for the name of the high school; the mascot name, “Trailblazers;” and school colors of crimson, black and gold. The ECHS is a project of The Bridge, an organization representing the three local school districts: NMSU: DACC: the city and county; and the private sector. The objective of The Bridge and this project is to substantially reduce the dropout rate in local public schools. As Stan Rounds (Superintendent, Las Cruces Public Schools) noted, we are the first to have employed a tax-exempt lease-purchase agreement in New Mexico for the first ECHS facility in the State of New Mexico. This transaction could not have happened without a team effort that included the developer group, Arrowhead Development Company LLC; the school district; the trustee; NMSU; and Bank of America as the investor. The transaction ultimately may serve as a benchmark for what other school districts can achieve with the ECHS concept.

The 3rd Annual Business Owners and Entrepreneurs Symposium, was a very successful event. Nearly 100 attendees gathered at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum for a day of business discussion. Presentation topics included an overview of New Mexico's economy, the commercial and residential real estate market and an overview of the Small Business Administration's role in the Recovery and Reinvestment Act lending programs. Additionally, Katie Hays, Executive Director, Congressional and Public Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, discussed "Healthcare Reform: How it Affects New Mexico's Small Businesses." Bill Gilmer, vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, El Paso Branch, presented the luncheon keynote address.
Dr. Sylvia Acosta, Assistant Dean, Development & Public Relations, 575.646.4917

The College of Business Hall of Fame dinner was an outstanding success thanks to our sponsors, staff and honorees. Congratulations to Arturo Jurado and Bill Myers as Hall of Famers, and to John Loveland and New Mexico Mutual as Traders Award recipients. There was not an empty seat in the house so thanks from the college to all the attendees who honored our graduates and friends. The festivities also included the presentation of a gift from Mike and Judy Johnson to the Lionel Haight Accounting Chair.

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

It’s recruiting season, and faculty are meeting daily with employers seeking to hire accounting students for internships and permanent positions. The accounting career fair, Beta Alpha Psi’s “Meet the Firms,” launched a welcome flurry of activity in these trying economic times, including breakfasts, luncheons, dinners, and receptions sponsored by employers. Interviews will continue for the next couple of months. Recruiters from ARGO visited New Mexico State University’s Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) student chapter and spoke about the company, career opportunities, and the role of information technology in the banking industry.

Dr. Richard Adkisson, Department Head, Economics/International Business/ESTAT, 575.646.4988

The Center for Public Utilities delivered a two-day training course on "Innovative Regulatory Approaches to Accommodate Renewable Energy, Demand-Side Resources, and Energy Efficiency Programs." Over 60 commissioners and staff members from state regulatory commissions across the nation attended. This two-day specialty course preceded the Center’s week-long rate-making training courses for the electric, natural-gas distribution and interstate pipeline industries. Larry Blank, Doug Gegax and David Smith all taught sections of these courses along with other industry experts. Over 120 company and commission staff members from around the country attended the week-long courses held in Albuquerque.

Dr. Pookie Sautter, Department Head, Marketing, 575.646.3341

Pat Gavin, director of New Mexico State University's PGA Golf Management™ program, was named the recipient of the Sun Country PGA’s 2010 Horton Smith Award. This award is given annually to the PGA Professional who has gone above and beyond educating current PGA members as well as future PGA members. This is the 9th year that Pat has received this award from the PGA.

The PGA Golf Management™ Program offered Klubs for Kids golf lessons and had over 40 kids participate. The program also had several PGA GM™ student volunteers participate at The Whole Enchilada Fiesta as well as assist the Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce with their annual golf event. Over 25 students helped out.

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

The Daniels Fund Ethics Initiative at New Mexico State University held the second meeting of the New Mexico Public Official Ethic Curriculum Committee to discuss courses needed for the ethics certificate program for public officials and to define learning goals for each course. The first meeting, held in Albuquerque, NM, was co-chaired by Bruce Huhmann (associate professor, Department of Marketing), Diane Prindeville (Department of Government) and Mary DeLorenzo (Cooperative Extension). Attending were Hector Balderas (NM State Auditor), John Yaeger (Deputy Director, NM Legislative Council Service), Phil Baca (NM Attorney General’s Office), Ray Bruce (co-author, Keeping the Public Trust), Randy van Vleck NM Municipal League), Grace Phillips (NM Association of Counties), Bill Jordan (Voices for Children), Michael Browde (UNM), Carter Bundy (AFSCME), Janice Arnold-Jones and Tom Taylor (Representative, NM House).
Former U.S. Senator Pete Domenici was a guest lecturer in BA 490/550, Current Issues in Business, following the Domenici Public Policy Conference. The lecture was an overview of the work being done by a Debt Reduction Task Force that the Senator and Dr. Alice Rivlin co-chair on behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center, a think tank in Washington, DC. The Senator is a senior fellow for the BPC. The task force report with recommendations to reduce the national debt will be released in November 2010.