Through the good efforts of Senator Jeff Bingaman, the University will receive a $10,000,000 appropriation for the New Mexico State University (Domenici) Public Policy Institute. Senator Bingaman sought this legacy appropriation to recognize Senator Domenici’s 36 years of distinguished service in the United States Senate. In addition to this appropriation, approximately $1,000,000 has been donated by private business and individuals to the Domenici Legacy Project.

The College of Business is a popular place on the campus of New Mexico State University. For the fall 2008 semester, the college posted a 5.4 percent increase in undergraduate students from the previous year. The number of graduate students in the college is up almost 23 percent. More than 280 students are enrolled in the MBA program this semester. That is more than a 27 percent increase in the past year. The college also posted a 7.5 percent increase in student credit hours, a statistic kept by the New Mexico Higher Education Department.

New Mexico State University’s Arrowhead Business and Research Park received a $900,000 grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration for infrastructure improvements. Matthew Crow, U.S. Economic Development Administration deputy assistant secretary for external affairs and communications, presented the check to NMSU’s Arrowhead Center, which oversees development of the park. The money will be used to extend Payne Street through the park to Sam Steel Way, helping attract other investments that the university expects will eventually create more than 5,000 jobs. Once complete, the new Payne Street extension will create a new, southern entrance for the university and provide a better link the park to the rest of the campus with two lanes for traffic, a bike path and utilities. The Payne Street extension should take between 12 and 18 months to complete. The road will be built so that it can easily expand to four lanes in the future.

Arrowhead Development, LLC is currently developing the first 11 acres of the 257-acre business and research park. The first building, now under construction, is approximately 15,000 square feet and represents a private-sector investment of approximately $3 million. It is expected to be complete in February 2009. Once that building is 60 percent occupied, work will begin on the next.

The College of Business honored the successes of alumni and friends of the college during its annual Hall of Fame Banquet. Inductees were Richard Baldridge, president and chief operations officer for ViaSat Inc., and Kerry Weems, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. He received the highest award conferred on federal employees, the Presidential Rank Award, by President Clinton in 2000 and again by President Bush in 2007. Joyce Whitfield Jaynes and J.B. and Libby Pruett received the 2008 College of Business Traders Awards.

The NMSU College of Business initiated the Hall of Fame a decade ago to honor outstanding alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and to develop a stronger relationship between the college and the business community.
**Dr. Tony Popp, Department Head, Economics/International Business/ESTAT, 575.646.2113**

The College of Business hosted a forum for the general public covering "The Financial Crisis: What It Means to You." The goal of the event was to provide answers to questions about the current state of the troubled U.S. financial sector and how those conditions directly affect people on a daily basis. Professors Chris Erickson, Ken Martin and Jim Peach discussed the current state of the financial sector and economic conditions locally and nationally as well as the effect those conditions are having on the stock market. Robert Scaling, NMSU’s director of treasury services, discussed the current state of retirement annuities. The speakers provided an overview of current events and answered questions from the audience.

**Dr. Bonnie Daily, Department Head, Management, 575.646.1201**

Dr. David Boje, a professor in the College of Business Department of Management, spearheaded the first annual New Mexico Arts Convention to further the awareness of the Las Cruces art and cultural scene. The arts convention was part of an initiative developed jointly with local arts groups, city officials of both Las Cruces and Mesilla, and Boje’s NMSU business students. The idea behind the convention was formulated after Boje was approached by local artist, Ruth Drayer, who was successfully selling her art everywhere except Las Cruces.