**Proposal for Collaboration: A Framework for Teaching and Learning Success at UNM**

### **Introduction**The University of New Mexico is dedicated to fostering an inclusive, innovative, and impactful learning environment. To support this commitment, we invite educators, students, and staff to collaborate on the **Framework for Teaching and Learning Success at UNM**—a resource designed to enhance teaching, inspire growth, and provide structured guidance for professional development.

### Developed by the Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence Committee (TEC), this framework highlights key teaching and learning principles at UNM. Rooted in educational research and informed by peer institutions, it offers evidence-based strategies and practical guidance aligned with UNM’s mission, values, and 2040 goals.

### **Purpose**This framework serves as a practical tool for strengthening and expanding educational experiences at UNM. By incorporating proven methodologies and best practices, it fosters active participation and continuous improvement in teaching and learning. It also reinforces UNM’s commitment to supporting and celebrating educators in their pursuit of teaching excellence.

**Guiding Principles of the Framework**

Based on extensive research about teaching excellence and well-established teaching principles, the TEC identified seven principles that promote and enhance teaching and learning excellence:

**Active and Culturally Responsive Learning** – Engaging, hands-on learning that reflects diverse perspectives enriches understanding and fosters deeper participation. By making learning more relevant, students and educators create a more dynamic and meaningful educational experience.

**Open Communication and Assessment** – Transparent communication and thoughtful feedback clarify expectations, support learning, and encourage continuous improvement. A shared understanding between educators and students fosters trust and academic success.

**Culture of Growth** – A mindset of adaptability and resilience benefits both students and educators, encouraging curiosity, problem-solving, and lifelong learning while creating an environment where challenges become opportunities for progress.

**Build Community** – A sense of belonging enhances motivation, engagement, and collaboration. By fostering supportive connections, both students and educators contribute to an inclusive and inspiring learning environment.

**Research-Centered Learning** – Integrating inquiry-based learning develops critical thinking and problem-solving skills, deepening understanding for students while allowing educators to create more relevant and impactful instruction.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** – An inclusive approach values different backgrounds and perspectives, leading to richer discussions, expanded knowledge, and a more welcoming learning environment for all.

**Reflection** – Thoughtful self-assessment strengthens learning and teaching practices. By examining experiences and strategies, both students and educators refine their approaches for greater success.

### **Shape the Future of Teaching and Learning at UNM**Educational excellence thrives through collaboration. We invite the UNM community to engage with this framework, share insights, and contribute to a shared vision for teaching and learning. Your input is crucial in shaping a framework that reflects and supports our diverse academic community.

Please provide feedback on the draft via the [survey](https://unm.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8uDN2Mq3eyFM3n8) (QR code available below)—your insights will help refine this resource to best serve UNM.

**Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence Committee**

Justine Andrews, Associate Professor, Art and Art History, College of Fine Arts

Cheryl Bryan, Associate Professor, Chair of Social Sciences, Psychology, UNM-Valencia

Eva Chi, Professor, Associate Dean, Chemical and Biological Engineering, School of Engineering

Cait Lippitt (Chair), Senior Lecturer III, Geography & Environmental Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

Colin Olson, Principal Lecturer III, Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences

Cristina Reiser, Senior Lecturer III, Economics, College of Arts and Sciences

Heidi Rogers, Clinician Educator, Associate Professor, College of Nursing

Steven Romero, Assistant Professor, English, UNM-Valencia

Jessica Rowland, Senior Lecturer II, Sustainability Studies Program, College of Arts and Sciences

Stephanie Spong, Senior Operations Manager, Center for Teaching and Learning

Rose Vallejo, Clinician Educator, Assistant Professor, Orthopaedics Physical Therapy, School of Medicine

Shannon Withycombe, Associate Professor, History, College of Arts and Sciences



