

Administration and Finance
Weekly Activity Report
Week Ending: December 12, 2014

- **Central Utility Plant Gantry Crane Installation** – ESA Construction is currently installing steel frame members for a permanent gantry crane over one of the chillers at the Central Utility Plant. Construction began December 2nd and is expected to be completed by December 12th. The crane will allow the Plant personnel to remove a 1-ton motor from its housing for periodical maintenance. The plans were designed by Stubbs Engineering.



- **NMSU's disaster recovery planning pays big dividends during two fiber cuts** – When it rains, it pours, or so the saying goes. Such was the case when the fiber optic cable known as RGON, on which NMSU's primary Internet traffic is carried, was severed close to Socorro, NM. In less than a second, NMSU's Internet traffic was automatically switched to its secondary backup fiber link, rerouting university Internet traffic to the Eastern Fiber Loop, a redundant path established last year to protect the NMSU's Internet connectivity. Less than 24 hours later, and before the Socorro break was repaired, the Eastern Fiber Loop fiber was cut near Roswell, breaking NMSU's backup connection to the Internet. A third automated protective circuit, owned by CenturyLink, was brought online, immediately picking up for the loss of the Eastern Fiber Loop fiber. The loss of the two routes occurred at the worst possible time for the university --- Finals Week --- when the network that supports the university's distance and hybrid education was experiencing its heaviest use of the semester. Coincidentally, at the same time the Eastern Fiber Loop circuit failed, Microsoft released an update of its Office and operating systems products, introducing more Internet traffic. In fact, NMSU experienced the **highest internet traffic rate in its history** during the week of the outage. Through the foresight of ICT's Network Operations Center (NOC) and Network Engineering Services (NES), the NMSU community was not impacted by the fiber cuts; Finals Week went off without a hitch. Nice disaster recovery planning and execution, NOC and NES.
- **Winter work on Golf Course** – The maintenance staff is currently working on a number of projects over the winter months designed to improve aesthetics and playability of the golf course. One project includes eliminating poa annua grass creating much more even playing surfaces.
- **NMSU's IT Compliance Officer to serve on EDUCAUSE editorial board** – ICT's Carlos Lobato, NMSU's IT Compliance Officer, has accepted an invitation to serve on EDUCAUSE's Higher Education Information Security Council (HEISC) Information Security Guide Editorial Board. The HEISC board is focused on maintaining, improving, and promoting the use of the EDUCAUSE Information Security Guide by the members

of EDUCAUSE. The guide, located at <http://www.educause.edu/security/guide>, serves institutions of all sizes and types address complex issues related to information security. Carlos will be principally responsible for oversight of the compliance chapter in the guide. Way to represent, Carlos!

- **Campus dining (Sodexo) recap of events during a very successful Finals week for our students and NMSU community!** –Finals week was kicked

off by Sodexo hosting a “Stress Buster Celebration” in Taos featuring stress relieving activities, giveaways and serving comfort foods. Also, at the request of ASNMSU President, Wesley Jackson, Einstein’s in CCSU stayed open from 6pm to midnight Sunday thru Tuesday for late night caffeine refueling and was much appreciated by the students. The Finals Late Night Breakfast on Tuesday was the culmination with the largest



attendance at 1,104 and most successful in the last four years, thanks to the efforts of

many, and especially John Rivers! Format was changed from prior years to provide a refreshed experience for students, faculty, and staff. Faculty and staff assisted with games and handed out prizes, candy, and mustache straws (a tremendous hit)! The DJ had a crowded dance floor and Coca-Cola Polar Bear worked the crowd, gave away five cases of mini Coke Bears and took countless pictures and selfies with the students!

