

New Mexico State University Administration and Finance A&F Weekly Report – Week Ending 12/11/2015

- **Employee Recognition:** Facilities Operations wants to recognize and congratulate Victor Palafox who is a Plant Operator at the Strickland Utility plant. He will graduate on December 12, 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. Victor has worked at NMSU since March of 2013 and has been taking college classes for a number of years. He also has an Associate's Degree in Computer Technology.
- **Fall Semester Pancake Breakfast:** Representatives from the Fire Department and Operations participated in the Fall Pancake Breakfast. Johnny Carrillo, John Guerin, and Tim Dobson had the opportunity to visit with the students while serving them breakfast. It was an enjoyable and rewarding experience to help the students.
- **Annual Building Monitor Appreciation Luncheon:** On December 10, 2015, Facilities and Services hosted an annual appreciation luncheon for the building monitors. As part of the event, Police Chief Stephen Lopez presented "Run-Hide-Fight" to the group.
- **ICT Stands Up New Research Supercomputer:** Affectionately nicknamed "The Joker", after the well-known comic book supervillain, NMSU's newest supercomputer is all about being super. Of NMSU's four supercomputers, The Joker has more processing power than the three other supercomputers combined, containing 112 processors, 448 GB of RAM and two state-of-the-art Tesla graphics processing accelerators. It can process **seven trillion** floating point calculations per second (7 teraflops). Norma Grijalva, NMSU's Chief Information Officer, stated, "This is an example of NMSU's commitment to research through an investment in powerful, research-focused computing technology, which is free for faculty and student research use." For more information, about the supercomputer, visit <http://hpc.nmsu.edu/>.
- **NSF Program Director meets with ICT:** Recently, at the NM Technology in Education conference, ICT staffers had an extended meeting with Dr. Kevin Thompson, a National Science Foundation Program Director in the Division of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure. The parties met to discuss the progress of a Cyberinfrastructure grant for which NMSU had applied. If selected, NMSU would join an elite group of institutions that will receive funding to employ a Cyberinfrastructure (CI) engineer whose role would be to remove barriers for CI-intensive research projects and accelerate scientific discovery. The recipient of the Cyberinfrastructure grant will be announced in first quarter of 2016.
- **Aggies Helping Aggies:** CCSU Information Desk program "Aggies Helping Aggies" collected over 63 food donations for Aggie Cupboard which were distributed before Thanksgiving.

- **31st Annual Noche de Luminarias:** Approximately 6,000 students, faculty, staff, and local community members enjoyed the trolley rides or strolled along the luminarias from the Pan American Center to Corbett Center and on to the Bookstore. At Corbett Center, guests participated in ice skating, pictures with Santa, holiday music on the grand piano, a gingerbread house decorating contest, ornament crafts, hot cocoa and cookies. The event was very well attended and a successful kickoff to the holiday season.
- **NMSU Golf Course:** The golf course maintenance staff has been very involved in its tree maintenance program removing dead or dying trees and preparing to transplant trees into numerous areas this spring. Additional pruning of trees will go on throughout the winter months. With the abundance of the trees on the golf course already meeting their life expectancy, it is important that existing trees be well maintained in an effort to prolong their life.
- **Finals Late Night Breakfast:** Finals Late Night Breakfast was held December 8th from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm in the Taos Restaurant. Volunteer faculty and staff assisted Sodexo employees in serving over 1,100 students. Pistol Pete, the Aggie Cheer Squad, and Striking the Wonder Dog were popular guests. The Aggie Underground was transformed into a disco featuring a DJ, and in Taos, the students played Rock'em Sock'em' Robots, giant Jenga, Hungry Hungry Hippos, bean bag toss, Aggie Trivia and guessed the weight of several VERY large pancakes. Winners of the bike and Coke refrigerator for the pancake weight contest were students Nicholas Spring and Styn de Meren. Over 250 cans of food were collected for the Aggie Cupboard.

