



March 2012

Welcome back to campus after spring break. This edition of the *Provost Post* includes information on our international initiatives in Costa Rica, an update on activity since last year's review of the Library, information on accreditation changes being implemented by the Higher Learning Commission, and an opportunity to register for the Spring System Summit.

Please also note that we are including links to presentations that were made at a recent Board of Regents meeting to highlight excellent research accomplishments by our faculty. Many thanks to Bruce Berman, David Taylor and Hugo Vilchis for providing fascinating views into the work life of faculty at NMSU.

I look forward to seeing many of you at graduation and other end-of-semester celebratory events.

Wendy K. Wilkins
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Costa Rica International Initiatives

International and Border Programs (IBP) at NMSU has launched a major international initiative that will open multifaceted opportunities in Costa Rica to our university. This is the second major IBP international initiative in Latin America with broad university participation—the first being the across-college working team participation of the Mexico Champions Task Force. A third initiative is anticipated by David Hansen, IBP Director of Latin American programs. Based on promising initial contacts and findings of a NMSU exploratory mission, this would focus on multiple programs in Chile. “The New Era of Excellence through Partnership” vision of President Couture is encouraging IBP to seek opportunities and to build NMSU international programs in important new directions. For more details please visit:

<http://provost.nmsu.edu/2012/03/international-partnership-with-catie-in-costa-rica/>



2012 Spring System Summit

NMSU cordially invites you to attend the 2012 Spring System Summit, titled *Conversations for Student Success*, hosted by President Couture and our Community College Presidents. This year's summit will be held at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum on Friday, April 13, 2012 from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm. Please [click here](#) to register, and to view the agenda and abstracts. You may contact Kim Altamirano at 575-646-2127 or email kaltamir@nmsu.edu for more information.



NMSU Library Update

In April, 2011 the NMSU Library was given the opportunity to participate in an external review by a three-member team of library deans from other universities. The purpose of the site visit was to support the NMSU Library in meeting present challenges and pursuing strategic directions for the next several years. The Library is responding to various recommendations not only from the library external review, but also feedback from its various constituencies. Please visit <http://provost.nmsu.edu/2012/03/nmsu-library-update-march-2012/> for steps already taken to address the findings.

HLC Revising Accreditation Criteria

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) will be implementing revised Criteria for Accreditation that are effective for all accredited institutions on January 1, 2013. The Gamma version of the proposed revisions to the Criteria for Accreditation, including the Assumed Practices and Obligations of Affiliation, is available for review at <http://www.ncahlc.org/Information-for-Institutions/proposed-revisions-to-the-criteria-for-accreditation.html>.

Faculty presentations to the Board of Regents –December 2011

[Bruce Berman](#)

[David Taylor](#)

[Hugo Vilchis](#)

Reminders and Announcements

President's open forums for faculty/staff and students set for April 23-24

NMSU President Barbara Couture has scheduled an open forum for faculty and staff at 3 p.m. Monday, April 23, in the Corbett Center Auditorium. All faculty and staff are invited to attend.

The president's open forum with students will be at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 24, also in the Corbett Center Auditorium. All students are invited to attend.

2012 Domenici Conference

The tradition of allowing a group of university students from across the state to ask questions of the Domenici Public Policy Conference's famous speakers continues this year with an added incentive. This year's Domenici Conference takes place Sept. 19-20 at the Las Cruces Convention Center. For more information or to access a nomination form, log onto <http://domenici.nmsu.edu/2012-domenici-students.html>.

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