

President's Report July 2012

■ **Former CNM Student Rises Through Ranks to Become VP for Academic Affairs:** Dr. Sydney Gunthorpe became CNM's new Vice President for Academic Affairs on July 2. Dr. Gunthorpe had been serving as interim vice president of the division for the past six months and previously held the position of Dean of the School of Business & Information Technology since 2007. Dr. Gunthorpe began as a student at CNM in 1991 and was the first member of his family to pursue a college degree. He graduated from CNM with an associate degree in liberal arts, then transferred to the University of New Mexico and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics with Summa Cum Laude honors. His master's degree in education from UNM was completed in 1999. While working at CNM, he earned his doctorate in educational administration from New Mexico State University. Dr. Gunthorpe has worked at CNM ever since he became a student at the college. He began as a work-study student in the Assessment Center, then moved on to become an Instructional Technician for mathematics. As he advanced his education, he also advanced in the administrative ranks at CNM, as well as serving as a faculty member. Before becoming Dean of the School of Business & Information Technology, he was associate dean of the School of Adult & General Education.

■ **CNM Students Excel at National SkillsUSA Competition:** In late June, 25 CNM students competed in the National SkillsUSA Championships in Kansas City, Mo., and they continued the College's long tradition of outstanding performances at the prestigious event. Fourteen CNM students placed in the top 10 of their categories and two brought home medals from the largest competition for career technical education students in the country. The CNM medal winners were Edgar Coyle, who won a silver medal in cabinet making, and Stephen Miller, who took home bronze for electronics technology. Nearly 6,000 career technical education students from around the country competed at the event in 94 hands-on competitions that are judged by industry representatives. SkillsUSA "is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce." According to SkillsUSA, the organization serves more than 300,000 students and instructors annually. The organization has 13,000 school chapters in 54 state and territorial associations. More than 14,500 instructors and administrators are professional members of SkillsUSA.

■ **CNM, UNM Work Together to Increase Graduates in STEM Fields:** As part of a U.S. Department of Education grant-funded effort aimed at supporting and improving pathways for students to pursue degrees in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields, CNM and the University of New Mexico signed three new agreements in June intended to increase the number of STEM graduates in New Mexico, including a student transfer agreement for Biology students. In addition to the Biology transfer agreement, a data sharing agreement and an articulation agreement were signed by the two schools to better support a smooth transfer process and to share data that will help support efforts to increase the number of graduates in the STEM fields. The \$3.5 million, five-year grant from the Department of Education was awarded jointly to the two institutions in October 2011 and is called the UNM-CNM STEM Undergraduate Pathway (STEM UP) project. The grant intends to address a significant need in New Mexico and across the country for more graduates in the STEM fields. It will also support efforts to increase the numbers of Hispanic students and low-income students entering these fields of study. The Biology Transfer Degree Agreement will allow students who earn an associate degree in Biology at CNM to seamlessly transfer the credits directly into UNM's College of Arts & Sciences Biology bachelor's degree program. The grant effort is currently moving forward on creating 18 more transfer agreements between CNM and UNM in the STEM fields.

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■ **CNM Students Enter Intel’s Ultimate Engineering Experience:** Thirty-three CNM students qualified to participate in Intel’s Ultimate Engineering Experience, a six-week experience that provides students the opportunity to build robots, develop apps and get excited about how a career in engineering can help them improve people’s lives. The Intel program is part of a nationwide “STAY WITH IT” effort to encourage more engineering students to stay in their major, graduate and take advantage of exciting careers. In the U.S., 40 percent of students leave engineering or change majors after the first year of college, which has created a shortage of engineers that hinders the country’s ability to create and keep high-tech jobs from going overseas. The goal of the Intel Ultimate Engineering Experience “is to show students the exciting possibilities of a career in engineering by providing hands-on practical experience, connecting their coursework to real-world jobs, providing support and mentoring to encourage students to “STAY WITH IT.” First- and second-year science, technology, engineering and math students from participating colleges and universities, including CNM, the UNM, New Mexico State University and Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, were eligible to apply. Of the 87 students participating, 33 are from CNM.

■ **Film Students Help Produce Video to Attract Movies:** CNM Film Technician students went on location in Silver City in June to lend their highly valued skills to a video production that will serve as an important promotional tool to help Silver City draw production companies to the area to shoot movies. The project was a partnership between CNM, which has the state’s largest enrollment of film crew technician students, Western New Mexico University, Silver City, Grant County and the State of New Mexico. Roles in the video include Billy the Kid and Geronimo.

■ **CNM Celebrates GED Graduates:** More than 200 students celebrated a life-changing milestone when they donned caps and gowns during CNM’s annual GED Graduation Ceremony on June 16 at Popejoy Hall. The always inspirational event is a rare cap-and-gown ceremony for students who have earned their General Educational Development (GED) certificate, an accomplishment that opens up a new world of possibilities for many students who, for a variety of reasons, didn’t graduate from a high school. Many of the GED graduates have overcome difficult situations to earn their certificates. Many students who take the GED in Albuquerque take preparatory courses through CNM’s School of Adult and General Education. Many of them continue on to pursue degrees and certificates at CNM.

■ **Donations Continue:** CNM is grateful for recent donations to the CNM Foundation from these donors:

- Ross and Carmel Busby
- Adrian and Michelle Chavez
- Frank Gorham Jr. and Marie Gorham Charitable Foundation
- French Mortuary
- The Daniels Fund
- United Way of Central New Mexico
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**Kathie W. Winograd
President**