I’d like to welcome you to the College of Education’s website where you will find a variety of information for students, faculty, staff and the general public. We’d like to bring your attention to one of our latest additions to the information available to you called, “Education in the News.” We are striving to increase the relevance of critical information by bringing you breaking news as well as focused articles on issues that impact education across the U.S., but particularly in the state of New Mexico. These resources will allow you to track the “hot button” issues that are impacting not only public education, but also higher education.

These are times of great change in both the nation as well as our state of New Mexico. The unacceptably low educational outcomes of our students, especially those from Latino, Native American and African-American backgrounds have resulted what is known as an “achievement gap” that has proven to be stubbornly resistant to closure. The gap itself is a proficiency deficit, but it typically is evidenced by poor retention and lower graduation rates. It is of utmost importance that all educators address this situation by bold action to first close, and then eliminate this gap. Our responsibilities in higher education are to work with our local and state education partners in bringing new approaches that are evidence-based into the classroom, measure their impact, and report on the outcomes. It is not enough to just do things and hope for the best, we must use those interventions that have promise, faithfully implement them, measure them, and then use that information to modify them. In that way, we fulfill our own mission as well as interacting with the schools and state in a thoughtful and progressive manner. We have much to offer our colleagues and students throughout the state, it is time to bring all these resources to bear on our most precious commodity, our children.

In addition to this work, we are still faced with the most difficult budgetary environment for public and higher education in the state’s history. The College is engaged in a continual process of strategic budget management as it navigates these treacherous waters. We have done very well in this endeavor, but it has not come without some pain as well as self-imposed changes to our lives. We are grateful for the new “COE Core Values,” passed last year by unanimous vote of the faculty – which guide our thinking and behavior. It is clear that we have further to go as we position ourselves for the future in what has become known as the “New Normal.”

Finally, to all of our students and their families. We are a rapidly evolving College that is constantly changing in response to events that are indicated by external, as well as internal events. We are constantly striving to increase the quality of our courses as well as our instruction to meet the changing needs of our students and the educational settings that they will practice in. In addition, we are moving aggressively into a more technologically innovative future that will allow us to respond to our constituents with greater fidelity and in a more timely manner.
This can be part of your future also, and it doesn’t matter if you are a prospective student, a potential faculty member, or a community advocate. We are here for you and we encourage you to join with us as we continue our development as the premier college of education in the state of New Mexico.