

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ANALYTICS



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

BY CHARLA OROZCO

Welcome back to campus! Whether you spent the summer immersed in research, teaching, professional development, or well-deserved rest, I hope the new academic year finds you energized and ready for what's ahead. Here in the Office of Analytics, we're excited to kick off the semester with new opportunities to connect, share, and grow as a data-informed community.

One way we're doing that is through our **monthly Data Community meetings**, which we envision to be a space for colleagues from across our campuses to exchange ideas, share best practices, and explore new tools and techniques. These sessions are held **via Zoom** to make participation as accessible as possible. Our next session will be held **Thursday, September 4th from 2:00 to 3:00, and will highlight an Introduction to Power BI**. If you'd like to be added to the invitation list, please reach out to Charla Orozco (cehenley@unm.edu).

We're also thrilled to announce the return of **the Art & Science of Data** as a standalone event on **Thursday and Friday, October 16 and 17**.

After a brief hiatus since 2023, this gathering will once again bring together our UNM community (staff, faculty, and students) to explore the intersections of data, storytelling, and innovation. **If you are interested in presenting at the event, please submit a proposal [here](#) before 5pm on September 1st**. More details about the event will be posted [here](#) as the dates near.

Our goal is to build upon our vibrant, collaborative, and forward-thinking data culture here at UNM, to create a community that works together to support data-informed decisions. We look forward to seeing you, whether on Zoom, at events, or in the hallways, and hearing your ideas for how we can continue to make data work for our shared mission. Find more details about upcoming data events below and at dataday.unm.edu.

Here's to a new academic year of insight, impact, and connection!

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WHAT'S NEW WITHIN THE UNM DATA COMMUNITY?

AIR Workshop

BY JING FENG & MONTE-ANGEL RICHARDSON

The **Association for Institutional Research** offers ongoing workshops for data professionals in higher education. These workshops are free of charge, and most are conducted virtually. These workshops cover foundational knowledge in higher education data (research design, survey design, statistics, etc.), IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) reporting and data use, comparison of IPEDS and PDP (Postsecondary Data Partnership) metrics, and PDP data use. Check out the upcoming workshops and register [here](#).

Appalachian State Analytics Day

BY ABIGALE FRANCO

On June 26, members of the OIA team virtually attended Appalachian State Analytics Day. With a focus on Tableau's functionality in higher education analytics, this year's sessions covered different approaches to building high-impact dashboards, as well as important considerations regarding student data privacy and security in utilizing AI tools. For more information about this year's sessions and next year's conference, visit [Appalachian State Analytics Day](#) online.

Inclusive Access Program Data Review

BY AMEER SLIM

The Inclusive Access (IA) program was developed as a collaboration between the UNM Bookstore, publishers, and faculty to help students gain immediate access to their course materials and save them money. A student can be either a participant (enrolled in IA) or a non-participant. The Office of Institutional Analytics (OIA) reviewed the impact of participation in the IA program by studying the outcomes of students who took both types of courses. For each student, we calculated the percentage of courses they passed in the participant group and in the non-participant group.

Preliminary results showed that, on average, **these students had a significantly higher pass rate in courses where they participated in IA compared to courses where they did not**. The study also found that the average course grade per student was higher in non-IA courses than in IA courses. We'll continue to build on this study, adding in data from the recent Equitable Access (EA) program rollout after this fall.

Save the Dates:

December 10 and 11: [UNM HSC's Tableau Days \(link\)](#) - hybrid, free!

November 19: [NM Data Users Conference \(link\)](#) - in-person, low-cost

OIA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Zacharia Kibuta recently completed STAT 545 (ANOVA) and STAT 553 (Statistical Inference and its Applications) as part of his preparation for applying to the PhD program in Applied Statistics.

Ameer Slim presented a topic about a causal inference at the IEEE International Conference on Big Data Computing Service and Machine Learning Applications in July of 2025 in Tucson, Arizona. The title of Ameer's presentation was "Unraveling the Impact of Curricular Complexity on Graduation Time: A Causal Analysis in Higher Education".

Charla Orozco was selected to represent UNM-Albuquerque in Harvard's Strategic Data Partnership Minority Serving Institution Fellowship. Over the course of the fellowship, leaders from 18 institutions will collaborate to strengthen institutional capacity, deepen their data analytic expertise, and champion evidence-based solutions for student outcomes.

One of **Yury Bosin's** online courses, POLS 320 "Middle Eastern Politics and Societies," taught through the Political Science Department, has successfully passed the Foundational Course Review Design. This achievement qualifies the course to be considered for the Golden Paw — the highest level of recognition for online course quality at UNM. Dr. Bosin already holds one Golden Paw in his teaching portfolio and looks forward to adding another in the near future.

FEATURED STAFF: AMEER SLIM

Ameer Slim joined the OIA in May 2025. He holds a master's degree in Applied Statistics and has two years of experience in data analysis, with a focus on higher education analytics. Ameer enjoys hiking, cooking, and reading historical nonfiction. He speaks English and Arabic. His goal is to grow into a senior data scientist role where he can combine statistical modeling with data storytelling to inform decision-making. He loves learning new skills and is always happy to collaborate on interesting projects.

