

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ANALYTICS

Spring 2026



Director's Column

BY CHARLA OROZCO

Welcoming You Back to Campus

As we welcome everyone back for the spring semester, you may notice OIA is a bit quieter than usual. That quiet reflects a period of focused, collaborative work as we contribute to the new IPEDS Admissions and Consumer Transparency Supplement (ACTS) survey component, due March 18th. Announced officially in November, this new survey component requires an immense data pull, careful coordination, and shared attention, and much of our work right now is concentrated on building a strong, accurate foundation for sustainable contribution to this survey for years to come.

I want to extend a sincere thank you to my team, who has been working tirelessly amid evolving requirements for this new survey component. Their careful attention to detail, particularly in assembling and validating seven years of data spanning 2019 through 2026, has been essential to ensuring the accuracy and integrity of our submissions. This work is demanding, often invisible, and deeply important, and I am grateful for their persistence and commitment.

On the bright side, the potential value of the ACTS Supplement is significant. By expanding access to admissions-related data (such as high school GPA, family income, SAT and ACT scores, and other academic preparation measures) across peer institutions, this collection will better equip us to benchmark our outcomes within an appropriate national context. Over time, these data will support more nuanced comparisons and strengthen how we frame institutional performance and student success.

We look forward to translating this work into meaningful insights in the years ahead and appreciate the collaboration that makes it possible. In the meantime, if you see one of us in passing, please excuse our over-caffeination.

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WHAT'S NEW WITHIN THE UNM DATA COMMUNITY

A&S of Data Day Recap

BY CHARLA OROZCO

We think the revival of the Art & Science of Data event was a success! We talked a lot of data, and even raffled off some data books! But don't take our word for it. Here's what the survey said:

- 87.3% agreed or strongly agreed that participating in this event improved their understanding of how to use data in their work.
- 83% agreed or strongly agreed that participating in this event increased their ability to engage with data.
- 91.5% agreed or strongly agreed that participating in this event increased their ability to communicate about data.
- 85.1% agreed or strongly agreed that participating in this event increased their ability to use data to inform decisions.

These are based on 53 responses to our post-event evaluation survey. We thank each of the 160 of you that registered and participated back in October. For those who could not join us, please know that recordings from the sessions are available [here](#).

Based on feedback during the in-person component, and from the survey, we will likely hold the next event in either August or November this year, and there likely will not be an in-person component this time around.

UNM Data Community

BY CHARLA OROZCO

If you haven't already, we encourage you to join our UNM Data Community. The Data Community is an open-access, campus-wide network for faculty, staff, and students who engage with data in their work, research, or decision-making. Our goal is to foster collaboration, share best practices, and strengthen a culture of data-informed insight across the university.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month on Zoom from 2:00 to 3:00 pm, making it easy to connect no matter where you are. Each session features opportunities to:

- Share tools, resources, and strategies
- Learn from colleagues and campus experts
- Explore new ways to use data to advance teaching, research, and service

We also connect outside of these sessions through a Teams channel, which provides the opportunity to post questions and receive more immediate support. Whether you are a data novice or an experienced analyst, the Data Community is a place to connect, learn, and contribute. Here's a glance at our topics for this semester:

- February 5th: Working with Financial Aid Data
- March 5th: AI and UNM Data
- April 2nd: Data Warehouse Updates
- May 7th: Best Practices in Data Sharing

You can email oia@unm.edu to be added to the calendar invite, or follow the steps listed [here](#) to add yourself to the listserv.

Concurrent Course Risk Project

BY CHARLA OROZCO & AMEER SLIM

This project examined whether taking certain courses concurrently is associated with lower student success compared to taking them in separate terms. Using institution-wide data and covariate-adjusted methods, the analysis identified course combinations linked to meaningful pass-rate reductions, informing data-driven advising and course planning.

Retention Project

BY JING FING

The Retention Initiative Research Project is an ongoing project that aims at a better understanding of the factors influencing retention rates at UNM. We plan to explore multiple years of historic data and build machine learning models to identify the factors that are most likely to predict a student's retention. We hope this project will provide valuable insights to help with improving our retention rates.

UPCOMING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BY ABIGALE FRANCO

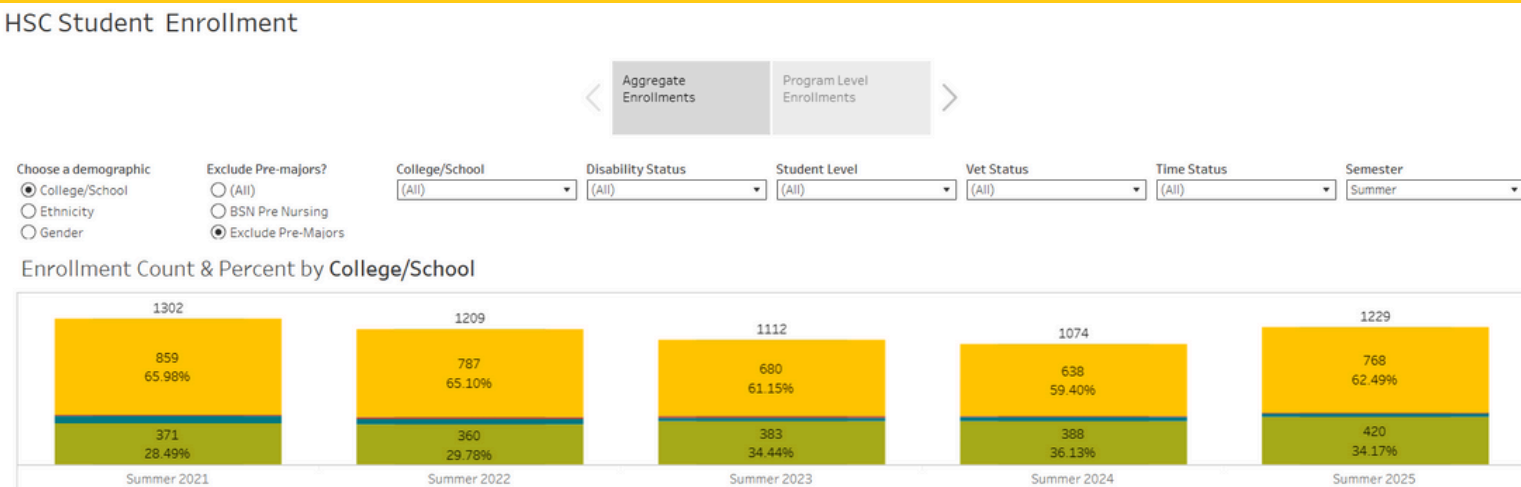
- January 27 – May 5: [Weekly R Lesson & Data Problem Solving Clinic](#) – join one of UNM's data librarians virtually each Tuesday from 11:00am – 12:00pm for project management mini-lesson in R and RStudio. Sessions begin with about 15 minutes of code-along practice; remaining time is dedicated to solving data management and manipulation problems that participants bring. Drop-ins welcome!
- February 9 – 12: [UNM Continuing Ed Introduction to Python](#) – This introductory-level course prepares students for more advanced topics through practical, hands-on training. Sessions offered virtually from 8:00am – 3:00pm. Registration is now open.
- February 23 – 27: [PowerBI Summit](#) – This virtual conference will cover topics for beginner to advanced audiences. Participants will have access to live sessions as well as all session recordings after the event. Registration is now open.
- March 5 – 6: [NM HEAR](#) – This conference will take place at the Albuquerque Marriott at Uptown. This year's theme is Navigating Success: Assessment in an Era of Transformation. Registration is now open.
- April 26 – 29: [Higher Education Data World Conference](#) – This conference will take place in Austin, Texas and showcases data-focused efforts at member institutions. Early bird registration ends March 3.
- April 29 – 30: [UNM Tech Days](#) – Tech Days offers no-cost sessions, discussions, and hands-on demos of current and future technological innovations. Registration coming soon (or now open?).
- May 5 – 7: [Tableau Conference](#) – This conference will take place in San Diego, California. Participants will explore real examples of how AI and human creativity come together to shape the next era of data and analytics. Registration is now open.
- May 26 – 29: [Association of Institutional Research Forum](#) – This conference will take place in Washington, D.C., with pre-conference events beginning May 25. Chose from over 200 crowd-sourced sessions by colleagues and thought leaders from around the globe. Registration opens in February.

DASHBOARD HIGHLIGHTS

BY MONTE-ANGEL RICHARDSON

Featured OIA Dashboard: UNM HSC Student Enrollment

The UNM Health Sciences Center Student Enrollment Dashboard provides readers with an interactive view of student enrollment trends across HSC programs. This dashboard allows users to explore headcounts by program, level, and demographic categories over time, making it easy to identify patterns and shifts in enrollment at a glance. By transforming institutional data into visuals, the dashboard supports informed decision-making for administrators, faculty, and external partners alike by enhancing transparency, promoting data-driven insights, and contributing to strategic enrollment planning across the Health Sciences Center. Please let us know which dashboard you'd like us to feature next by emailing oia@unm.edu!



OIA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BY YURY BOSIN

Yury Bosin has started his 15th year as a volunteer for the Adaptive Ski Program of New Mexico.

Jing Feng led her trivia team to top-three finishes multiple times in the Useless Knowledge pub trivia competition at the Quarter Celtic Taproom.

Abby Franco has learned how to ski and has already progressed to green and some blue slopes.

Zacharia Kibuta completed his Tableau Data Analyst Certification in October 2025. Mr. Kibuta was promoted to the Senior Institutional Researcher position in November 2025.

Charla Orozco will be representing UNM and the Office of Institutional Analytics at one regional conference and four national conferences this spring! She's had conference proposals accepted at the NM Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Forum, the Strategic Data Project Convening at Harvard University, and the Association of Institutional Researchers Forum. She is also planning to present on campus at Tech Days and will be providing a workshop for advisors on finding student data to assist with advising strategies in April.

Monte-Angel Richardson presented the findings of her dissertation research, 'Understanding Firearm Safety Engagement Among Latino(a/e/x) and Hispanic Adults in South Valley, NM' at the New Mexico Violence and Injury Prevention Coalition. She also presented these findings virtually at the National Conference for the Prevention of Firearm-Related Harms and the Society for Social Work Research.

Ameer Slim completed the Tableau Data Analyst certificate in October 2025.