BIO BOOK

EMBA CLASS OF 2020

ANDERSON SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
EXECUTIVE & PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION CENTER
Executive MBA
CLASS OF 2020

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Daniel Robson
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Laurie Williams
Bryon Aguilar is a Business Analyst working for Vitality Works developing operation analytics for Senior Management. Bryon leads an innovation team tasked with introducing next generation interdepartmental financial analysis. Interests are to develop professionally learning business and governmental dynamics. Bryon’s inquisitiveness for first-hand experiences root from growing up in small communities. The morals of native pueblo communities reflect his character within working environments. Leadership within these communities developed skills mentoring and constructing kinetic teams. Supportive mentors drive the want for succession and amplify aspirations to return their efforts. The EMBA opportunity is a part of a systematic approach to positively impact people through future initiatives with focuses on non-profits.

Bryon has professional experience though Auditing, Accounting, Casino Gaming, Consumer Credit Industry, Customer Service, Electronics and Sales. UNM EMBA presents attractive challenges of developmental practice to exemplify skills of executive leadership. Community leadership with occupational experiences leads Bryon to have a business-minded perspective. Bryon looks forward to indulge in analyzing strategic managements across diverse specialties. Learning executive subjectivity will provide top-down understandings useful to assist operational implementations within the company he works.

Personal working goal includes promoting disciplinary skills of emotional intelligence and cognitive thinking with working colleagues. Working in an industry with systems new to him, he has proven to be a valued asset for the administration. Acquiring higher education and professional occupation within hometown of New Mexico is rewarding. UNM EMBA is a highly regarded opportunity that will complement his ambitions, innovations and creativity.
Hi! I’m a software developer with a heart for travelling, photography, and hot chocolate on a snow-filled day. With eight years of corporate experience, my strengths are a result of my curiosity and persistence. I’m from Santa Fe, New Mexico and received my BBA from Anderson School of Management in 2007 with a focus in Management Information Systems.

I currently work at Northrop Grumman Corporation, I coordinate with senior project managers and technical leaders to ensure budget and scheduling targets are met. I am involved in all aspects of the software development cycle from communication with the business partners to deployment for the customer. Prior to Northrop Grumman Corp., I worked at Whole Foods Market Inc. headquarters in Austin, Texas. The grocery retail industry broadened my view into business operations and how information technology can impact a retail organization. While in Austin, I developed and managed our core perishables procurement web application which tied all suppliers into a system to assist global buyers with purchasing quality products at the right quantity. Additionally, after completion of my under-graduate studies, I worked for Lockheed Martin Corporation as a software engineer for five years. Most of my work was developing web applications using hands-on experience managing and executing technical solutions with competitive development tools. I led a team of three software engineers to sustain an application in the maintenance stage. From these experiences I learned to coordinate closely with a team of developers, customers, project managers, and key stakeholders to delight customers.

I look forward to developing my leadership skills and meeting folks with diverse career paths, yet with the same goal of managing change and growth in various industries. Within the software development operations sector, I intend to become an effective leader so I can manage a team with various skillset levels. The eMBA program will place me in a position to make critical decisions for the long-term growth of any organization.
I am Adriana Isabel Anderson. I was born in Las Cruces and have lived the majority of my life in Albuquerque. I enjoy everything about this city, the climate, the outdoor landscape, the history, and the culture of the people. My drive is to help improve the economic success of Albuquerque and ultimately the entire state. New Mexico is a big interest of mine because it is where I grew up and where most of my family and friends live. I intend to live here forever, with occasional travels to other states and countries.

I currently work at Enchantment Landscapes, Inc. where we focus on designing, installing, and maintaining residential landscapes. For this company, I estimate and coordinate the production of our installations. This has been my position for the past two years. Previously, I worked at Plant World Wholesale Nursery where I familiarized myself with the community of designers, contractors, and homeowners, native and exotic plant names, and the biology of plants and soil. Working at this nursery is where my passion for the outdoor landscape and its inhabitants rapidly grew, and is how I was fortunate enough to begin working for a local landscape contractor.

I began pursuing my drive to help improve my community by obtaining a Bachelor’s Degree in Spanish from the University of New Mexico, with a minor in English. I did this because I believe speaking both Spanish and English is a good start to communicating and relating to the people of Albuquerque. My current position allows me to work intimately with local individuals, both our clientele and my teammates in our company. Working as a team is one thing that attracts me to the EMBA program. From this program I expect to obtain skills that help me better manage others and myself in the work environment. I have future goals of becoming an entrepreneur of a design company involving plants, paper, and local news. I expect that the EMBA program will show me the successful path to becoming an entrepreneur and how to manage my time, teammates, and finances now and for the future.

Me in 6 words: “Your plants are my professional business.” -Adriana

Me in 3 words: “Planting a future.” -Adriana
I earned my commission in the United States Marine Corps in March 2009 via the Officer Candidates Course program. Following graduation from The Basic School I was designated as a 7210 Air Defense Control Officer and reported to Marine Air Control Squadron One (MACS-1) in Yuma, Arizona as a Second Lieutenant in October 2009. There, I worked in the Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC) where I specialized in aviation command and control, data management, and systems interoperability. While at MACS-1 I served as the TAOC Operations Officer in Charge, deployed twice to Afghanistan, and once to Kuwait, all in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Promoted to Captain in 2013, I was transferred to Marine Air Command and Control Squadron Experimental (MACCS-X) at Camp Pendleton, California. While there, I served as the TAOC Division Head responsible for acquisitions and the testing, evaluating, and analysis of future Marine Corps command and control systems.

In June 2015 I was reassigned to MACS-1 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, California as the Early Warning and Control (EW/C) Detachment Commander. While serving as the Detachment Commander I was responsible for managing tactical data systems and managing personnel in support of numerous joint and coalition training exercises across California, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico.

I assumed my current duties as Marine Officer Instructor for Naval ROTC and Lecturer II in the Naval Sciences Department at the University of New Mexico in June 2017.

I am eager to continue the progression of my career through the EMBA program. This program will allow me to gain experience and knowledge from experienced professors and student professionals from a variety of disciplines with diverse perspectives.
Currently I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Santa Clara Development Corporation (SCDC) located in northern New Mexico. SCDC is wholly owned by the Pueblo of Santa Clara and is responsible for new economic development ventures, as well as operation of the Santa Claran Hotel Casino, Santa Clara Retail Enterprises, Black Mesa Golf Enterprises, and Kha’p’o Construction Services. I started out in tribal economic development immediately upon graduating from New Mexico State University, with my first job as an accountant for the Camel Rock Casino. Over the course of my career I held various Director, C-Level, and Board positions.

I am an enrolled member of Zuni Pueblo and grew up on the Santa Clara Pueblo. Growing up in Santa Clara, a strong sense of community and culture was instilled in me during my upbringing. As CEO of my tribe’s Development Corporation I utilize these teachings to assist in making decisions for the organization that ultimately sends financial support to Pueblo for social economic programs. My tribal culture is part of my everyday life and is what helps guide me through life.

During this program, my goal is to develop a great working relationship with other members of the class so that there will be professionals in other fields that I can bounce ideas off of, and share my experiences with for mutual development. It is also my hope that during this program, I am able to elevate my strategic and critical thinking for the benefit of my organization and Pueblo.
As a native New Mexican, born and raised in Albuquerque, I feel lucky to part of the diverse culture of the Southwest. I have over 30 years of work experience in various industries such as retail, legal, environmental, information technologies, and education.

My route to the Executive MBA has been non-traditional and diverse. As a senior at Albuquerque High School, I began working in a retail clothing store, and soon after graduating I was promoted to Assistant Manager. At the age of 22 I moved to Boston to attend college, and graduated summa cum laude as class Salutatorian with a BA in Art History from Pine Manor College, while putting myself through school working 30 hours a week. Several years later I earned my MA in Anthropology & Women’s Studies from Brandeis University.

Over the years I have held numerous management positions in retail, legal firms, and an environmental company specializing in the manufacture and sales of composting toilets. With a voracious appetite for learning new things, I’ve also pursued personal continuing education interests such as cuanderismo and shamanism, herbal healing, dog training, pottery, tinwork, and beadwork.

Currently employed as an Institutional Researcher in the College of Education, I have worked at UNM for 18 years. During my years at UNM, I have served as Project Manager and Functional Lead on several university-wide projects to bring the university systems into compliance with Federally mandated reporting requirements.

I’m excited to be part of the EMBA program in the Anderson School of Management. I anticipate that the knowledge and skills that I will acquire from the program will help to propel my career in new and interesting directions. Additionally, I foresee building strong professional and community relationships.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, wine tasting, reading, walking my dog, and performing home and garden improvements.
Pablo Cabrera currently serves as a Sr. Student Advisor and Recruiter for the High School Equivalency Program (HEP) under El Centro de la Raza at UNM. In this role, he has gained experience in employee supervision, project planning, budgeting, task management and completing projects in a timely and qualitative manner. He also serves as the main liaison between the HEP staff and partnerships with other UNM programs and the outside community.

He is passionate about working with young adult students, and this passion has been one of his main motivations to continue his education and choosing the EMBA program. Working with non-traditional students has allowed him to explore a wide variety of other topics and he has consistently found himself working both within the spheres of academic recruitment and business to better serve students and his program. It is with this inspiration and drive that Pablo comes to the EMBA program. He is looking forward to building meaningful relationships with the cohort as well as developing his professional skill set that the Anderson School of Management EMBA program will surely facilitate.
Alexandria Chang

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR
UNM HSC Clinical & Translational Science Center (CTSC)

I was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM in a family that truly values education and culture. My parents immigrated here from Bangkok, Thailand and Guadalajara, Mexico both seeking a promising future. When I was growing up, I watched my parents work hard to excel in their fields as a Civil Engineer and a Surgical Nurse. My father had a hard childhood and knew he wanted to provide more for his family. As a result, they pushed me to be the best that I could become and I pursued a teaching career. I spent six years teaching at a multitude of institutions supporting a diverse group of students. While I found this work rewarding, I knew that I wanted more in my life and career. It was then that I decided to take a break from teaching and return to further my education.

On the path to get my Masters, I accepted a position as an Administrative Coordinator at the UNM HSC Clinical and Translational Science Center (CTSC). At CTSC I found a love for business and leadership through the work the CTSC performs, and I decided to apply for the Executive MBA program as it truly fits my life and career goals.

My passion for education and my commitment to enhance my career go hand in hand with this program and allow me to set a great example, not only for my nine month old daughter, but to the students I mentor. This new pursuit, while it requires a sacrifice to the time I spend with my family, their support lets me know that I will succeed in all the passions that I pursue.
My name is Scott Cilke and I’m incredibly excited to be starting the EMBA program at the University of New Mexico’s Anderson School of Management. Through personal experience and my professional career, I’ve felt as though I’ve always been drawn to a managerial role. From organizing concerts and practices for my high-school garage bands, to being captain of the rugby team, and lastly, being promoted to assistant manager from a seasonal position in college, leadership is something I’ve always been drawn to.

As for now, I currently work as an advertising account executive for Cumulus Media – a cluster of eight radio stations based in Albuquerque. Having gotten my degree in Broadcast Journalism from Texas Tech University, another one of my prevailing interests in life has always been media. While, when I was 18, I thought I’d major in broadcasting and start a job at ESPN the next day, this was not quite the case. However, I couldn’t be happier with how my career has begun, and where it’s leading me. I work with a terrific team and a terrific group of managers that ALWAYS have my best interests in mind.

Outside of the workplace, I keep a close knit group of friends and hobbies that I adore. For the most part, while not at work, you’ll find me either at the gym, or playing on my rec-league softball and basketball teams. During the weekends I love to go on hikes with my wonderful puppy, Buster (the love of my life), I love to go to the movies with my girlfriend, Elizabeth (she’s ok too…), and I love to play sports and video games with my buddies. All of this, while also trying (and mostly failing) to maintain a healthy life style, keeps me pretty busy.

All in all, my life has provided me with very little to complain about. I’m excited to accept the challenges the EMBA program has to offer and continue my personal growth in that regard. I truly feel this will open up a myriad of doors for me in the future.
Elizabeth Cordova is the Account Services Manager for UNM’s ECHO Institute, where she oversees the organization’s partner relations. She has a diverse background in project management, marketing and communications, technology and software development, and customer service. Elizabeth is a New Mexico native and graduated from the Albuquerque Academy in 2001. She then attended the University of Washington and graduated with dual bachelor’s degrees in Economics (focus on International Economics) and Sociology (focus on Social Organizations). In the Seattle area, Elizabeth worked as a software tester and project manager for companies managing health-related technologies. She returned to Albuquerque in 2009 and worked as a project manager, event planner and social media manager for both small, private businesses and nonprofit sector organizations throughout the metro area until she started working at UNM in 2017.

Elizabeth is excited about both the long and short-term benefits of being part of the EMBA program. In the short term, she looks forward to learning how to be a better supervisor and leader, while in the long term she’s eager to see enhanced career growth. She believes getting an MBA will better enable her to help Project ECHO reach its goal of touching one billion lives by the year 2025. She is also passionate about supporting her community, and plans to use her business expertise to provide greater support to local nonprofits. Elizabeth has volunteered for numerous organizations, including: serving on the local Prospanica board (formerly the National Society of Hispanic MBAs), doing taxes for low income and senior individuals with Tax Help New Mexico, creating the Community Outreach Committee for the Hispano Chamber of Commerce, and more.

Elizabeth lives with her partner and their three senior Pomeranians, Bartok, Buzz, and Woody in Albuquerque. Her hobbies include traveling, trying new things, patios in summer, and enjoying all types of food and drink.
Michael S. Davis, M.D. was born, raised and lives in New Mexico. Michael’s undergraduate education was at the University of New Mexico (UNM). He attended medical school at the University of New Mexico. His residency was in Urologic surgery at UNM Health Science Center. From there, he did a fellowship in Urologic Oncology at the University of Miami School Of Medicine.

Michael returned to New Mexico to be close to his family in 2001. At that time he also joined the faculty in the department of Surgery at UNM. During his time as a faculty member at UNM, he has been section chief of Urology at the Veterans Hospital until 2011. He was appointed chief of the Division of Urology at UNM, and promoted to Professor in the department of Surgery in 2014. He has been the surgical director of the renal transplant program since 2010.

He serves on committees for the American Urologic Association, the American Transplant Congress and the United Network for Organ Sharing. He also serves on various local committees for UNM and our local organ procurement organization. He has been employed by UNM in some capacity for 28 years.

His goal for the EMBA program is to learn more about management and business, applying these skills in leading the urology division, as well as an administrator in health care. He looks forward to this experience and meeting new people.
I was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where I graduated from Highland Highschool and earned my BBA at the Anderson School of Management. I have worked for the University of New Mexico for 12 years, with my current position as a Senior Program Manager at the COSMIAC Research Center. COSMIAC is the largest research center under the School of Engineering. A large amount of my duties involves business planning and development, establishing new program funding sources, and program development with many facets in the Department of Defense as well as UNM main campus. I manage multimillion dollars in contract/grant awards. I supervise research center staff, students, and daily administrative research functions. And, I am the first contact to outside organizations for Center issues related to contracting or personnel.

I am honored to be accepted into the EMBA Program at the Anderson School of Management. I believe that education is very important, and I strive to be a prime example of this philosophy. From this program I hope to bring vision and opportunities back to COSMIAC, so we can continue growth in our research center.

Away from work I am a proud mother of eight beautiful children, whom are all accomplished themselves. Three sons that are firefighters, my son that is a full-time dad, a daughter with a full scholarship at the University of New Mexico, a son that is in the Navy ROTC with an application into the Naval Academy, a son that is joining the Marines, and a daughter that is a four-time all around state champion in gymnastics. I also have six beautiful grandchildren (and one on the way). Family is very important to me, and my inspiration to continue in my studies and obtain my MBA.
Dean is a career Naval Officer. He graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1999 with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Finance. In 2007, he was a Distinguished Graduate from St. Mary’s University at San Antonio with a Masters of Business Administration in Information Systems.

Dean was designated a Naval Flight Officer in 2001. After initial training in the P-3, he reported to VP-40 (Oak Harbor, WA) where he served as the Classified Materials Systems Officer and the Aircraft Division Officer. His follow on tour in 2004 was with U.S. Air Force’s 562nd Flight Training Squadron where he served as the Lead Instructor Navigator. In 2008, he checked onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) as the Catapult and Arresting Gear Officer and multiple Air Department Division Officer positions. In 2010, he reported to VP-45 (Jacksonville, FL) for his Department Head Tour where he served as Tactics, Admin, Training, and Maintenance Department Head. In 2013, he returned to Oak Harbor, WA where he served as Maintenance Officer for Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing TEN. Prior to arriving at UNM, he served as the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Officer for Commander, US Naval Forces Central Command / U.S. FIFTH Fleet (Manama, Bahrain) where he has served since 2016. He checked onboard as Assistant Professor of Naval Science at the University of New Mexico NROTC in 2017 where he teaches Leadership and MGT and Naval History.

Throughout his career he has deployed in support of multiple theater campaigns to include Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Air Force Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), as well as various service and campaign awards.
My name is Stephanie Eastham and I recently graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Business Administration in entrepreneurship, and a minor in chemistry. Although not the most traditional combination, my original career goal was optometry, a dream that began at only 15 years old. However, while pursuing my chemistry minor and taking business courses, I quickly realized that business acumen runs through my veins.

While I have many dreams I would like to see come to life, my motivation for joining the EMBA program is to gain insight and knowledge to successfully run my own business. My current dream is to obtain my real estate license and one day successfully run Castle Finders Realty, our family business which began over 20 years ago. During the next two years I am looking forward to expanding my understanding of business and developing genuine relationships with my colleagues. I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue my Master’s Degree so soon after receiving my undergrad.

My husband, Danny, and I have been married for two years and will be moving from Oklahoma to New Mexico. We are excited to begin this journey that we believe God has set before us. We enjoy traveling and any outdoor activity, and look forward to the new opportunities that Albuquerque has to offer. Our hope is to become involved in the community and create life-long connections and friendships.

My fascination with business, people skills and aspirations to be an entrepreneur are characteristics I plan to bring to the EMBA program. The opportunity to collaborate with a team from various age groups and career paths is a treasure in itself, not to mention the quality of staff and educators. I am excited to learn and grow together!
Kat Fox

ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY
McCarthy Holthus LLP

Kat Fox is a New Mexico native and a returning UNM alumni. She earned her BA in Sociology after graduating from La Cueva High at the age of 15. She recently returned to New Mexico in 2016, after obtaining her Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School. Kat has recently accepted a position as Associate Attorney at McCarthy Holthus LLP and is enthusiastic about expanding into a new area of law.

Prior to joining her current firm, Kat worked for a local corporation as Associate Counsel where she focused her practice on general corporate law, regulatory compliance, and contract drafting. This included the preparation of corporate documents, license agreements, regulatory compliance documents, as well as drafting consumer, client, corporate, and employee contracts. During her time at Drake University Law, Kat practiced as a Licensed Student Attorney for both the Drake Law Legal Criminal Defense Clinic and the Polk County Attorney’s Office. Her experience in both criminal defense and criminal prosecution has helped foster confidence in the courtroom and judicial system, skills she is excited to bring to her new role at McCarthy Holthus LLP.

Kat is eager to begin the EMBA program and is motivated by her desire to further her ability to view an issue from multiple points of view, improve her business communication skills, and gain more managerial and business focused mindset. These are skills that Kat believes will allow her to provide an increased level of client advocacy and assist in refining her interactions with corporate and senior management. She anticipates learning these, and many more, invaluable skills during her time in the EMBA program and that adding this experience to her repertoire will assist in her goals of obtaining Partnership before the age of 35.

In her free time, Kat enjoys hiking and backpacking with her dog, Olympic weightlifting, and cycling.
My name is Justin Gabaldon, I am currently an Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Subject Matter Expert with Alpha-Omega Change Engineering and provide training for military operators across all services and coalition partners at the Distributed Missions Operations Center on Kirtland, AFB. I served in the US Air Force for 15 years, including 10 years of active duty and 5 years of national guard service, and was awarded numerous service medals and distinguished honors. I learned and became proficient in the Korean and Turkmen Languages as an Airborne Cryptologic Linguist, which is basically a military translator of foreign intelligence information. I was able to deploy 3 times while flying on 3 different aircraft; RC-135, EC-130, and MC-12. Following active duty, I became an Imagery Analyst, concentrated on targeting, while serving in the Air National Guard.

I contribute much of my spare time to my position as the Founder and President of the Dance With Me Boosters, a local nonprofit I started to help raise money for families who have children participating in extracurricular activities. I found that I have a talent with nonprofit work, particularly since I have grown this organization from a few members of my daughter’s dance team, to over 200 people! We have a much greater reach now as well, helping families across Central NM.

I have earned Associate’s degrees in Intelligence Studies and Technology, and in the Korean Language. I have earned a Bachelor’s degree in International Relations. The EMBA program interested me because I want to use the skills I learn from the program to advance my career and become a full-time executive, own my own business, continue to build my nonprofit, and/or simply further my current opportunities as a government contractor or employee. I am always busy, so this executive program is the best fit for me considering work, volunteering, coaching, and family.

I was born and raised in Belen, NM. I came back to New Mexico after my service in the USAF, to be more involved with my wife and soon to be 3 children. I coach my kids, and many others, in acrobatics, fundraise constantly for many people, golf when I can, and just hang out with my family.
Scott Goodman joined GRG in 2015. Scott works on new acquisitions and developments. Since joining the organization, Scott has tripled GRG’s presence in Colorado and broke into new markets in the Northwest. Scott also helps out in transactional negotiations, management, and underwriting.

Prior to GRG, Scott was the residential manager for a multifamily building in Eugene, Oregon. As a RM, Scott oversaw a team of assistants to uphold and strengthen operations.

Scott holds a bachelor’s degree from The University of Oregon in business and economics. While in college, Scott rowed crew for UofO’s co-ed club team. Scott was also a member of Alpha Kappa Psi, professional business fraternity.

Scott applied to the EMBA program for three main reasons. First, he wanted to expand his knowledge of business through the course curriculum. Second, he wanted to network with other motivated business professionals. Third, he wanted to give himself a step-up in his career advancement.

Scott’s goals for the next two years are to accomplish the three reasons he applied to the program. In the process, Scott would like to build lasting connections with his professors and classmates that live on past the program.

Scott was born in Chicago, IL but has lived in four states and one district. In his free time, Scott enjoys mountain biking, skiing, and traveling. Scott has been to twenty countries and forty-nine states. Alaska is the remaining state of the list.
Erica Grong

PROJECT MANAGER
UNM IT

My undergraduate degree was in Business Administration from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and I have worked in the Information Technology field in higher education for almost 30 years. I am currently an IT Project Manager for UNM IT-Applications, where I manage multi-million dollar enterprise software implementation and process improvement projects from start to finish. I love all things related to technology and innovation, and consider myself to be immensely creative and curious. In addition to my professional certifications in project management and technology, I also hold certificates in Gamification, Paralegal Studies, and Online Instruction.

Since most of my career has been in non-profit and higher education, I have a passion for public service and always commit myself to serving the community. For the past several years, I have served as a Grade Representative for the UNM Staff Council, and I am currently the Vice President of Communication for the local chapter of the Project Management Institute. I have also advanced the technology strategies for NM Legal Aid and ABQ-GED.

I believe that the group cohort focus of the EMBA program is very well-suited to my learning style and strong desire to work in teams. I’m excited to share my vast knowledge of technology with users of all levels; I love enabling people to embrace technology and innovation.

Throughout the EMBA program, I wish to continue my in-depth exploration of Agile project management methodologies and expand my expertise in gamification and group innovation activities as a way to solve business challenges and expand technology strategies. In my spare time, I build websites, conduct seminars, and I enjoy swimming, traveling, photography, and playing drums.
Jeremy Hamlin
ACCOUNTING MANAGER
UNM Contract and Grant Accounting Department

I was born and raised in Albuquerque and am proud to call myself a native New Mexican. After graduating from Anderson with my BBA in December 2006, I began my career in public accounting with Kardas, Abeyta & Weiner P.C., a small local firm with offices in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Over the course of eight years, I worked my way up through the ranks from Staff Accountant to Audit Manager, developing a niche in planning and performing governmental and single audits. While at the firm, I made the decision to study for and take the CPA exam, earning my CPA license in November 2010.

I’ve always been interested in a career in higher education and jumped at the opportunity to work for my alma mater. In February 2015 I started working at the University of New Mexico as a Supervisor in the Contract and Grant Accounting Department. In September 2017, I was promoted to Accounting Manager in the same department. I am proud of the work we do to help further the University’s research mission by providing support in the administration, management and oversight of sponsored projects.

I am particularly interested in the subject of leadership, and I’m always looking for ways to grow as a leader and better myself. In addition, I’ve always valued education and really enjoyed my time at Anderson, which ultimately led me back to pursue an advanced degree through the EMBA program. I am so excited and grateful for the opportunity to join the Class of 2020, and I’m looking forward to networking and learning from the EMBA faculty as well as my fellow classmates.

I married my wife Beth in October 2017, and we are expecting our first child this September! I love to run in my free time, and I’m always looking forward to my next race.
Savi Janapareddi

SR SOFTWARE DEVELOPER/SYSTEMS INTEGRATIONS LEAD
Los Alamos National Laboratory

I am an IT professional with experience in designing, architecting, developing and managing software solutions for engineering, manufacturing and oil and gas industries. I have a strong understanding of software management, project management, software development life cycle management.

I have a Bachelor’s degree in Commerce and Advanced Accounting, a Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications.

Having worked for 19 years, I decided to return to academic study to undertake the Executive Masters in Business Administration program to lay the foundation for an Executive level leadership position. My goal is to expand my skill set and practice organizational behavior dynamics, financial accounting and effective communication that are crucial skills for an effective leader.

I volunteered as an assistant troop leader, troop treasurer and a cookie mom for junior level Girl Scouts, and as a Math Pentathlon coach for 10-year-old kids, teaching competitive math strategies. I enjoy going on road trips with my family and my two dogs.
Sue Jones
TECHNICAL ANALYST 3
UNM IT

I am an Information Technology technical analyst at UNM, rounding third base in a career that has been focused on software design, development and support. After more than thirty years in the field, and with millions of lines of code under my belt, I still adore the process of creating automated solutions that save time and improve accuracy. I gravitate towards projects with many moving parts: multiple stakeholders with varying objectives. Successes in that arena are hard won, and very satisfying.

In years past, I have supplemented my steady paycheck employment with rental properties and several different small businesses. I hope I have all that out of my system, at least for the duration of my EMBA studies. However, I am incubating a few ideas that could transform my golden retirement years into the frenzy of a small business start-up.

My interests are many, and I have found Albuquerque a rich playground to indulge them. I love music in all forms, but particularly in live performance. With my partner, Ralph, I own a hot air balloon named Eos; flying and chasing her, along with the attendant socializing, is a favorite weekend pastime. I am an avid fiction reader and movie-goer. Dissecting plots, characters and motivations (and rewriting the endings!) with other enthusiasts is a great pleasure.

I have been fortunate to travel a good deal in my lifetime, although it is never enough. The heightened awareness and small differences in everyday things I experience, particularly in foreign countries, is delightful. I have twice lived abroad, first in the north of England, as a student at Durham University in my early twenties; and later, for a two-year residency in Stockholm, when I transferred to the headquarters of the Swedish telecommunications firm Ericsson. In both cases, I was required to formally immigrate to the country, although I never doubted my eventual return to the U.S.
David Lewis

FACULTY LECTURER III
UNM Department of Special Education

Born in the geographic center of the US, I spent my early life down the street from Harry Truman in Independence, Missouri, then headed to the School of Museum of Fine Arts in Boston to study art. After arriving in Santa Fe and Albuquerque 35 years ago, I have had a fulfilling career working with people with disabilities and their families.

I am a professional educator with over 25 years of experience in teaching all levels of preK-12 public and private schools in general and special education. I have also spent 15 years in higher education teaching educators about instruction and curriculum design, psychology, and assessment. My PhD in special education has been valuable in understanding how people learn, and how relationships are a key element for students’ success. I currently teach and supervise student teachers in the UNM College of Education Dual License Program that prepares teachers for general and special education classrooms.

While in the EMBA program, I look forward to meeting other community professionals willing to share their experiences so that the principles of business have a stronger presence in the preparation of future teachers.
Joshua Lucio has dedicated his professional career working in higher education by providing scholarships for American Indian and Alaska Native students across the country and creating positive impact in tribal communities. Joshua is Zuni Pueblo from Zuni, New Mexico. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology with two minors in Chemistry and American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. Joshua is currently responsible for the oversight of the American Indian Graduate Center (AIGC) scholarships and fellowships for undergraduate and graduate level students. Prior to AIGC, he administered the Zuni Tribal Scholarship program and coordinated various training opportunities for Zuni Tribal Members.

Seeing students succeed inspired him to pursue the Executive Master of Business Administration degree and to one day become the Executive Director of an organization or tribal entity. He is passionate about working with people and organizations. By having an EMBA, he plans to elevate the Native non-profit sector to the national stage where more people can become aware of the great work being done in Native communities.

Joshua is eager to join the EMBA program at the University of New Mexico and become immerse in a new educational endeavor. He is excited about how he can apply new innovative ideas to the growth and expansion of scholarships for students. Working with his peers from various professional backgrounds and expertise will offer a unique opportunity to learn new business concepts and strategies that can be applied to his current role in the non-profit sector.
I am foremost a New Mexican. I have lived here in Albuquerque, New Mexico all my life. Born to immigrant parents from Pakistan who moved to United States to allow my siblings and I to have a bright future. Growing up in the land of enchantment has always driven me to want to support and care for my community in anyway possible.

I discovered healthcare was my passion when I was accepted into a nursing program junior year of high school. I learned many core skills within those rough 2 years as a young adult that continue to define and improve me as an individual everyday. This includes the realization to have compassion for others regardless of any stigmas or personal biases. I graduated 2013 from UNM College of Pharmacy. Since, I have been working with Walgreens as a Pharmacy Manager in charge of improving the day-to-day lives of our fellow New Mexicans thru education and healthcare awareness in our community. I am a very driven and passionate individual who strives to improve the quality of care in our state.

The EMBA program will serve as an invaluable asset that will elevate my career. This will enable me to foster my growth as a leader. By utilizing the skills and knowledge I attain to further personal success as well as the success of my colleagues, organization, and community. I look forward to productive insight by learning from knowledgeable professors and classmates; my ultimate goal being to applying each aspect of the EMBA to my workplace and community at large. This EMBA degree will serve as a catalyst as I plan on creating and implementing new initiatives that will drive forth large scale success and improvements within the current healthcare infrastructure. I am very excited to be embarking on this journey and hope to maximize on every opportunity to advance as a strategic leader.

My everyday life includes hanging out with my 2 year old daughter and extremely supportive husband. I love traveling abroad, hiking, reading, painting, and above all, hanging out with my wild family.
Christian Negre

SCIENTIST
Los Alamos National Laboratory

My name is Christian and I am a scientist with extensive experience performing research in the field of computational chemistry and physics. My background goes from pure mathematics up to biology, passing through physics and chemistry with computational sciences as a common denominator tying all these fields up.

My career started in the year 2000 as a chemical technician graduated from the Industrial School Armando Novelli in Rio Negro Argentina (the town where I grew up). I worked for companies dedicated to petroleum chemistry while getting my masters in chemistry from the University of Cordoba. I graduated in 2006 and immediately started my PhD in the same institution developing computational codes to study the electron quantum dynamics in nanomaterials (Metal Clusters and Nanoalloys, Springer, 2013, 105-157). I received my PhD diploma in 2010 before moving to Yale University in the United States.

During my three years of postdoctoral stage at Yale, I worked in electron transport process occurring in solar cells. I lead (2012-2014) the computational team at the recently created Energy Sciences Institute (ESI) where I contributed to set up the basis of the relationship between molecular electronics and photo-injection in solar cells. In 2014 I moved to Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to work in developing algorithms to advance quantum molecular dynamics simulations. Since 2016 I have been a staff scientist working on developing computational chemistry codes that are used for both private and academic research at LANL.

Several challenges are frequently faced when managing a research project including the need of clearly dividing the work without killing collaboration; maintaining a fair budget distribution between people and equipment; providing deliverables and meeting deadlines keeping a good “problem solving” environment; etc. With the Anderson EMBA program I am seeking to expand my career towards a managerial direction hoping to be able to contribute in the research and development project management at my institution.
Robert Ortiz

BUSINESS ANALYST
UNM Purchasing Department

I was born and raised in The Land of Enchantment, having lived in both Rio Rancho and Albuquerque New Mexico. My passion for learning began while I attended the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. During my time there, I worked at the Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center, which shaped a foundation of technology and analysis. After moving back to Albuquerque, I started a family and continued to challenge myself through expanding my knowledge and education. I received an Associate’s Degree, and Bachelor’s Degree from the University of New Mexico.

I currently work at The University of New Mexico, beginning in May of 2013 and have grown into different positions. I manage Business Intelligence for Procurement, Finance Systems Administration, and Web Development for the Controller Administration. My educational background is focused on Change Management and Business Communication.

My work experience and knowledge enables me to effectively manage the daily operations of fast-paced environments in order to meet strategic goals and day-to-day operations. I am skilled in leading and managing financial operations as well as building and supporting various finance systems. This includes designing, customizing and ensuring efficient system implementation. My background has allowed me to successfully manage high levels of financial operations on a global scale. Some areas include the operation and development of systems such as MySQL, Java, Windows and cloud based systems.

I work closely with Executive leadership at the University on a daily basis, providing my feedback from a business intelligence perspective regarding business decisions and procurement operations. The Executive Masters of Business Administration program closely aligns with what is required to meet my professional goals, but also reach my personal goals of lifelong learning. The curriculum and high caliber of instructors will challenge me to excel in my professional development. I plan on applying what I have learned to contributing to the University of New Mexico’s vision of being financial sound and secure and pursuing my professional goal of joining the executive leadership team.
Amber Otero

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Faith Lutheran Church

Born in Texas and moved to New Mexico as a teen, I graduated high school in Albuquerque at La Cueva High School. I was able to complete high school graduation credits a semester early and began attending Central NM Community College (CNM) to earn an Associate Degree in Pre-Management. The majority of courses taken at CNM were in court reporting stenography, accounting, and management. I received an undergraduate degree from Anderson School of Management and am excited to return to UNM for my graduate degree.

I have been employed and have experience in both profit and non-profit organizations including the legal field at an attorney’s office and vehicle insurance industry, and currently the non-profit sector for an established organization that has been part of the community for over 62 years. In my position as Director of Operations at Faith Lutheran Church over the past 12 years there are different ‘hats’ worn to accomplish the responsibilities of the role such as human resource director, accountant, and facilities director. Key elements which are challenging and rewarding to the job include overseeing the annual budget process, maintaining financial reports, and facility management projects for instance the re-roofing of nearly 34,000 sq. ft. of the building. Non-profit organizations rely heavily on volunteers. In the past it was my privilege to serve as a volunteer at both Albuquerque Humane Association and Cloud dancers of the SW Therapeutic Horse Riding program. Almost any and everything to do with the outdoors is enjoyable to me especially hiking, biking or walking the dogs. Over the years three canine companions have been rescued through adoption.

I eagerly look forward to the EMBA program where personal and professional growth opportunities will be gained through enhancing and sharpening leadership skills as well as building a network and rapport with successful professionals within the community.
Olga Palacios

SPECIALTY NURSE
UNM Health Sciences

Olga Palacios is a register nurse in Albuquerque NM who has worked in Labor and Delivery, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine and now she works as a Home Visiting Nurse with Nurse Family Partnership. Olga graduated with her bachelor degree in Science of Nursing from The University of New Mexico in 2009. Olga received the Out-Patient Nurse award in 2011 and recently she received the 2017 Staff Award from the UNM Department of Pediatrics.

As a Nurse Home visitor, Olga has participated in two educational films. The first one is Taking It to the Streets: Nurse-Family Partnership Fosters Parenting Skills in At-Risk Communities, which at University of New Mexico Hospital is use to teach staff about early childhood home visiting. The second film is Everyone Business: Protecting our Children, which won an Emmy.

A native of Guatemala and raised in Southern California allowed her to be bilingual and bicultural. Before being a nurse, she worked for Public School districts in California and here in New Mexico

Olga enjoys volunteering for new projects and pilots. Olga has moved up to become a manager in most of her jobs, showing her leadership aptitudes. Olga enjoys volunteering in her community. Olga enjoys spending time with her family, which includes her husband and two boys. Olga is the first member of her family to graduate with a bachelor degree.

Olga is honored to be part of the EMBA 2020 cohort. For the next two years, Olga hopes to gain knowledge and abilities on how to read reports, understand accounting and sharpen her leadership skills. Olga looks forward in applying her new skills not just in her current job but also in her career.
Eric Peterson

PROJECT CONTROL ANALYST
Millennium Engineering and Integration Co.

My name is Eric Peterson, I was born and raised right here in Albuquerque, NM. Like most kids, I didn’t know what to do with the endless choices we have after high school, and after a year at the local community college, I decided it was time for a big change. I enlisted in the United States Coast Guard and shipped off to basic training in late September of 2001. As the country recovered from the 9/11 attacks, our service was asked to diversify our mission. During this change I knew that I was part of something much greater than I had imagined when I held my hand up and swore an oath to the USCG.

After basic training I was fortunate to get assigned to Station Golden Gate, a small boat unit located right under the beautiful Golden Gate Bridge. Our mission required performing search and rescue, heavy weather and surf rescue, helicopter operations, as well as law enforcement and security patrols in the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean.

Following the 4 years of active duty and performing countless missions, some complex and dangerous, some simple and quick and everything in between, I returned back to New Mexico to study at UNM. After a couple years trying to find and decide on a major, I stumbled into the EMS Academy for EMT Basic class where I learned of their Bachelors of Science in EMS and the Austere and Mountain Medicine discipline. I loved learning the in depth EMS science and methods, as well as the high and low angle rescue operations. Working as a small and highly functioning team of skilled people felt similar to the small boat crew rescue missions I had done many of in the Coast Guard.

After undergrad, I took my skills and knowledge to the Emergency Department where I worked for over 4 years alongside the best techs, nurses, doctors, and practitioners in the highest paced and most challenging environment. I also took my training along with my passion for skiing up to the Santa Fe Ski Area where I became a member of the Ski Patrol, and I am still actively practicing emergency medicine every winter.

The endless stress of the Emergency Department eventually caught up to me, and I decided to find something new. A neighbor put in a good word for me, and I applied for a job at Millennium Engineering and Integration Co. A long shot for sure, with no experience in any corporate fields, however I impressed the team with my diverse background and ability to learn and adapt quickly and I was on to my next adventure. The last three years working in and enjoying the business environment has brought me to the EMBA program. I’m excited to expand my working knowledge and I’m eager to develop a deeper understanding of business operations and government contracts, and further my financial analysis and management skills. I expect the approachable schedule of the EMBA along with the in classroom work to help me success in school and beyond.
I was born and raised in Brazil and I come from a family with many entrepreneurs, so business has always been a field of interest. This interest increased during college, when I was part of the Junior Enterprise for 4 years. By my third year, I was elected to be the Administrative-Financial Committee Director. During my senior year, with just months left to graduate with a degree in Control and Automation Engineering, I came to the United States to improve my English and be more competitive. My plan was to live with my aunt for 6 months and go back to Brazil to complete my degree. During my stay, I met my wife and now I am here presenting myself as your classmate.

As a foreign student, I had to face many challenges and overcome barriers, especially with language, but I can confidently say I have given my best every day of my life and I have received so much in return. Most of my credits transferred to UNM and while working as a Student Employee, I was able to finish my undergraduate studies and I graduated as an Electrical Engineer. I now hold a full time staff position as a Facilities Services Manager for the HSC Library.

The EMBA program aligns with my goals to propel my career path to the next level. Collaborating with other working students and faculty, sharing our collective skills and experiences, enhances the program’s focus on building strong and effective leaders. I hope to add a unique and distinct point of view to my classmates through my experiences.
Daniel Robson serves as the Operations Superintendent of the 250th Intelligence Squadron, New Mexico Air National Guard (NMANG). He is responsible for overseeing all work activity and training and leads his team in accomplishing some remarkable things worldwide. He also trains, evaluates, and mentors his team to ensure they maintain the individual readiness to accomplish their mission.

Originally from Alaska, Daniel moved to New Mexico over 30 years ago and attended high school in Albuquerque. After graduation, he entered the NMANG as an Aircraft Armament Systems Specialist. In addition to his service in the military, Daniel also spent over a decade in the civilian sector as a business analyst and project manager for a healthcare distribution company. He found that he loved leading people and seeing large projects come to fruition. This led him to pursue a Bachelor’s degree in Business with a concentration in Project Management. He transitioned to a full-time position in the National Guard in 2005 and accepted the opportunity to retrain into an intelligence position in 2011. His assignments include military bases in several states, as well as deployments overseas in Iraq and Italy.

Daniel is also the vice president of the Enlisted Association of the New Mexico National Guard, an organization that represents and supports endeavors of enlisted guard members and retirees. The organization lobbies state and national leaders to sustain and improve New Mexico’s National Guard forces and to fix discrepancies in legal code that create inequitable disparities between reservists and active duty members. Daniel is also active with his church, where he is currently the chair of a million-dollar construction project to build a new church for his community within the next year. Daniel, a father of three, spends his spare time with his wife and youngest son and spending time outdoors.

She began her professional career at Shamrock Foods, Inc. as a Marketing Assistant. She served in that capacity for 6 years before joining Make-A-Wish New Mexico in 2014 as the Program Assistant. Over the past four years, Danielle has worked in several positions in the Make-A-Wish organization and now leads the wish granting efforts as Program and Outreach Manager. In her capacity, Danielle supervises the granting of over 100 wishes for children throughout New Mexico each year. Danielle’s passion for serving children and seeing her own family member have a wish granted led her to work with Make-A-Wish New Mexico. Danielle understands that granting a wish is more than just a singular moment in time; it is an opportunity to give each child and their family a renewed sense of hope and purpose as they battle their illness.

Danielle is a graduate of the University of New Mexico where she majored in Psychology and Sociology. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority and currently serves on the alumni and advisory boards. She also assists as a coach for a YAFL cheerleading squad. In her free time, Danielle enjoys spending time with her daughter, travelling and escape rooms.

Danielle looks forward to expanding her knowledge base through the Executive MBA program and is excited to participate in a leadership focused curriculum that will give her the necessary resources to better lead those individuals that she interacts with at work and through her volunteerism.
Justin Valdez

R&D MECHANICAL ENGINEER
Los Alamos National Lab

Justin began his journey and love for science at a young age in the small town of Abiquiu NM. Upon graduation from high school he continued his journey to UNM and majored in Mechanical Engineering focusing on material science and engineering design. As a graduate of UNM School of Engineering in 2010 he decided to continue his journey in engineering and was accepted on scholarship to UNM’s Manufacturing Engineering program here he focused lean manufacturing, process capabilities, and mechanics of materials. His research consisted of developing a process improvement for Unirac a local solar panel manufacturing company. He graduated in 2013 with a Master’s of Engineering in Manufacturing Engineering.

Upon graduation of his master’s Justin was working full time as a facility engineer for Los Alamos National Laboratory. He was lead engineer for many facility upgrades to the plutonium facility and the surrounding security equipment guarding the plutonium facility. After 5 years of doing professional engineering Justin was hired into the detonator design group for Los Alamos National Lab. Here he ran multiple projects and wrote engineering specifications for the detonator fabrication facility at LANL. During this time he did detonator design for the B61-12 LEP, W88, and the W78.

Currently Justin works as a flight test engineer for the B61-12 LEP program. This consists of managing multiple points of contacts and equipment within LANL and also outside of LANL with Sandia National Lab, Boeing, and the Air Force. As a flight test engineer Justin is in charge of qualifying the B61-12 to fly attached to the Air Force’s F-15, F-16, and the F-35.

In late 2017 Justin and a few friends opened up V&M Global Solutions LLC, a scientific and engineering consulting firm based out of Ojo Caliente, NM. Justin is currently the Chief Operations Officer and Mechanical Engineer. He works alongside two Ph.D. Mechanical Engineers and a fellow Master’s degree Mechanical Engineer. V&M has one ongoing contract with Navajo Technical University in Crown Point, NM and pending contract with Northern New Mexico College in Espanola, NM. The focus of the firm is to provide technical and manufacturing consultation for small universities, startups, and commercial companies. Justin is trying to grow his business from a startup to an actual standalone entity capable of bringing on more employees and providing jobs for the people in Northern New Mexico.

Justin joined the EMBA program to increase his knowledge of the business world and network so that he can better apply this knowledge to his own startup and his full time employer. During his free time he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, hunting, traveling, attending 49er games, and golfing.
Elissa Vigil is an administrative professional with decades of experience. Her background experience in IT support, bookkeeping, and general administrative support was essential when she joined Los Alamos National Lab in 2001. For her first 13 years there, she worked as the lead administrator for groups researching theoretical chemistry and nonlinear dynamics. Seeking new challenges, she next joined the LANL Engineering Institute as their program administrator where she coordinates educational programs including hands-on internships for undergraduate and graduate students and a course training state and federal judges how to evaluate the veracity of scientific evidence in the courtroom. She also performs the high-level budget management, marketing development, purchasing, and hiring for her institute. In addition to her other duties, Ellie and a few coworkers created a partnership with the University of California, San Diego to offer a distance learning master’s degree program to LANL early career engineers. The successful establishment of this program resulted in a Small Team Distinguished Performance Award for Ellie and her collaborators.

Ellie is looking forward to expanding her knowledge and capabilities in a formal classroom setting. She is excited to be a part of the EMBA program at the University of New Mexico and to have the opportunity to participate in such a well-regarded program and collaborate with the Class of 2020 cohort.

Ellie Vigil was raised in and lives in Santa Fe, NM with her husband and two sons. She enjoys cooking, gardening, and spending time with friends and family. She attended New Mexico State University and then the University of New Mexico and graduating with a BA in History in 1999.
My name is Mariah Vigil, I am a native New Mexican raised in the small town of Bloomfield. I graduated from the University of New Mexico with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a minor in communication and interdisciplinary studies. I currently work at the University of New Mexico Psychiatric hospital as a community support worker, working closely with members of the community who are experiencing a mental illness. I love working with people and making connections with stakeholders in our community.

I spent last summer in Mexico City learning more about leadership and business. During my time there I realized that I can pair my desire to improve the lives of people and my interest in business and decided to pursue a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Mexico Anderson School of Business. With my MBA I hope to gain the necessary skills to move into a leadership position at the University of New Mexico Hospital and eventually open a socially conscious business that will improve our community.

During my spare time I enjoy travelling, learning guitar, reading, biking, photography, painting, and volunteering. I’m looking forward to the exciting journey that the EMBA program has to offer and sharing our experiences and skills with one another.
I was born in Minnesota and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico as I was entering my teenage years. I have spent a few years out in Chicago recently, but for the most part the call of New Mexico has been strong and this has become home to me.

Currently, I work for Cisco Systems as a Network Engineer within their Advanced Services team. I lead and mentor a global team that is responsible for the design and implementation of network automation solutions for the next generation 5G network at Verizon Wireless.

I graduated with a degree in Biology from the University of New Mexico. However, from a very young age I was always drawn to technology and its implications for the future. This interest has guided my career from the very beginning and continues to be a factor as I build the networks of tomorrow. I chose to pursue a career in computer networking during my college education and I have spent the past twenty years immersed in the design, building and support of networks for large organizations within the Financial, Service Provider, Enterprise and Government verticals. I have held the highest network industry certification, the CCIE, for the past ten years as well.

Over the past few years, I have been nominated for several leadership and business programs within Cisco. These experiences have sparked a new focus and interest in moving away from the hands-on, technical side of the business to focusing more on solving long term customer problems within the business. My goal for the EMBA program is to acquire and hone business skills that would help to balance out my technical background. With these new skills, I will look to communicate my vision of the future network and the role automation can play in solving business problems at scale.
My name is Tina Whitegeese and I am a tribal member with the Pueblo of Pojoaque and a resident of Santa Fe. I have a 12 year old daughter who attends a small private school in Santa Fe. I have been in the workforce for about 22 years and out of school for the past 13 years.

I have spent the last 9 years in the tourism and hospitality industry learning about sales, marketing, project management, and site management. I volunteer with organizations that are a part of my life such as my daughter’s school, tribal boards and tourism planning committees. I also take an interest in the philanthropic passions of my friends and volunteer for their events. Most recently, I have decided to combine my work life and philanthropic interests and pursue a career in the not for profit arena. It has been difficult to make a lateral career move because there are elements of experience in management, operations and development that I have yet to master.

I am currently the office manager at Wings of America in Santa Fe. The EMBA program can help me gain some of the experience that I lack and make me a more competent leader. I most look forward to the organizational behavior, operational management and executive leadership topics of the program because they will help me become a more effective manager of people. One of my goals is to be the type of boss or coworker who aids in the growth and development of my coworkers so that they can move up or move on to more enriching experiences. I view the financial topics of the program as most essential to my professional development although I do not possess the same zeal for them as I do for non-financial topics.
I am a (nearly) life-long resident of New Mexico: I was born in Alamogordo, raised in Albuquerque, and received my BS in electrical engineering at NMSU. My husband, Greg, and I have three kids: Abby (21), Nick (18) and Ryan (10).

I am currently the Senior Manager of Operations and Planning Compliance at PNM Resources, Inc. (PNMR). Since joining PNMR in May 1992, I have held a variety of engineering positions but now oversee the Operations and Planning compliance efforts for the company’s two utility subsidiaries: Public Service Company of New Mexico and Texas-New Mexico Power Company.

My recent participation in the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Albuquerque Program highlighted for me the effect that a single capable and motivated individual could have on his/her community at large. I am motivated to create the same kind of impact that various community leaders have shown me was possible. I want to join their efforts to improve the destiny of New Mexico for my children and their future families. That motivation has led me to the University of New Mexico Executive MBA Program, which will allow me further build my skills and, in turn, enhance my ability to contribute to our state’s economic and social opportunity.

I have long considered pursuing an advanced degree, but hesitated due to family and work obligations. The youngest of my three children is more independent and I feel like I have mastered my current professional role. Most importantly, I am ready for a new personal challenge and am excited about this opportunity!
AUDREY B. ARNOLD is the Director of the Executive and Professional Center (EPEC) at the UNM Anderson School of Management overseeing the EMBA, MBAED and the Career and Professional Development Programs. With more than 15 years of expertise leading strategic planning and business development, Audrey is a results-driven marketing and management executive. She has worked with diverse groups and organizations including The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization in New York City and Rio Grande/The Bell Group in Albuquerque.

AMANDA ABETYA I am an Albuquerque, NM native. I graduated from Albuquerque High School and attended UNM as an undergrad. I managed a chiropractic clinic for 5 years before coming to work for the University, working as an Administrative Assistant for Occupational Therapy in the Health Sciences Center before joining the EPEC team. I have plans to return to UNM and obtain a degree in business, with hopes to one day own my own business. Outside of work I enjoy spending time with my dogs, reading, camping, and going on short road trips.

MICHELLE ALBRO is the Director of Career and Professional Development Programs. As a successful manager for 20 plus years, Michelle brings to EPEC a solid background of collaborative teambuilding, comprehensive and professional program development, as well as, quality improvement guidance. Michelle strives to serve UNM and the Albuquerque community through customized (customizable) developmental programs tailored to meet our flourishing market.

AUDREY B. ARNOLD is the Director of the Executive and Professional Center (EPEC) at the UNM Anderson School of Management overseeing the EMBA, MBAED and the Career and Professional Development Programs. With more than 15 years of expertise leading strategic planning and business development, Audrey is a results-driven marketing and management executive. She has worked with diverse groups and organizations including The Rodgers and Hammerstein Organization in New York City and Rio Grande/The Bell Group in Albuquerque.
TRISH RANSOM is an Anderson School of Management alumna and has been an employee with UNM for 13 years. She worked at the UNM Bursar’s Office prior to joining the Executive & Professional Education Center. She has worked closely with the Financial Aid office for her entire career at UNM and will be your first contact for all billing and financial aid information.

LAURA JIMENEZ is the Marketing Representative for the Executive & Professional Education Center. She is an Albuquerque native and has a Bachelor’s degree in Mass Communication from the University of New Mexico. Laura has done marketing and design work for a variety of industries such as tourism, insurance & finance and government. In her free time, Laura enjoys watching sports and going to the zoo with her husband and two sons.

FRANK BORJA oversees the development and delivery of the MBA-ED program while developing relationships with the education community. Before joining EPEC, Frank was the Assessment Coordinator for Albuquerque Public Schools where he oversaw and coordinated the implementation and execution of large-scale assessments for elementary, middle, and high school students. Prior to APS, Frank worked for UNM’s University College Advisement Center as a Senior Academic Advisor. Frank earned a Bachelor of Arts in Public Communications from Florida Atlantic University and holds a Masters of Arts in Education from the University of Southern California.

KRISTY BARRAGÁN is the Data Manager for the Executive and Professional Education Center. She is an advocate for making data-based decisions in all aspects of the organization. Her passion to strengthen the business community is achieved by supporting the Executive MBA Program, the MBA-ED Program and the Career and Professional Development Programs. Kristy spends her free time hanging out with her...
GINA URIAS-SANDOVAL is the Program Director of the Executive MBA Program at the Anderson School of Management Executive & Professional Education Center. She is a member of the alumni of the University of New Mexico and serves on the university’s Staff Council. She has over 20 years administrative experience working in non-profit, government and university settings and has worked at UNM for 15 years. She has experience in working on student centered programs, community programs and research.

AVA WILLIAMSON worked in the telecom industry for over 15 years and then as the Business Manager of a local United Methodist church for ten years. Now, as one of EPEC’s Administrative Assistants, Ava manages the essential, complex, and general office administrative duties. She also supports the MBA-ED and EMBA programs by helping to ensure our students have a hassle and worry free environment, while at school. She coordinates meals and snacks, orders textbooks and classroom material, schedule rooms, and manages parking permits. At home, Ava and her husband enjoy riding their Harley, camping (in a 5th wheel), and most of all, being grandparents.

ANGELICA RUIZ-OLIVAS Angelica is an Albuquerque native and a first generation student. She started her education at CNM earning three associates degrees and six certificates during her time there. Currently, she is a senior working on getting her bachelors in marketing and operations management. Her hobbies include reading manga, watching anime, and cosplaying. Angelica is very passionate about Japanese culture and plans to visit Japan after graduating to learn about lean manufacturing and to meet her favorite manga authors.