

To: Faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences, University of New Mexico

From: Arash Mafi, Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of New Mexico
Professor of Physics and Astronomy, University of New Mexico

Re: The Marshall Award for Course Development & Curricular Enhancement

Date: 5 November 2021

Dear Colleagues,

In my first communication with you as Interim Dean, back in early July, I took the opportunity to thank **Professor Diane Marshall** for her nearly decade-long service as the College's Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, and to congratulate her on her retirement from UNM after 36 years of exemplary service to our college and our university.

Now, some 4 months later, I am proud and delighted to share news with you of **the Marshall Award for Course Development & Curricular Enhancement**, an award that honors Professor Marshall's career-long commitment to improving the classroom experience of UNM students.

Marshall Awards are available to full-time faculty members in the College who are developing a new Face-to-Face course for the College or improving the curriculum of an already existing Face-to-Face College course. Each award will be accompanied by a summer stipend of up to \$2,000, and we will grant up to three (3) Marshall Awards per year.

Additional details about the award and application process are on the College web site ([here](#)), and I encourage all our full-time faculty members to consider applying. The application deadline is 1 February, and recipients of our inaugural awards will be announced no later than 15 March.

I want to thank Associate Dean Mary Domski for spearheading the development of the Marshall Award. I also want to thank Brisha Cruz-Garcia and Stephanie Hands -- the two staff members with whom Professor Marshall worked most closely during her time as Associate Dean -- for the important role they played in making the award available.

For inspiring the award's very creation, it is of course Professor Marshall to whom we owe our deepest thanks.

Professor Marshall had an exemplary career at UNM, as a researcher, a mentor, a teacher, and an administrator. The achievements that are highlighted on the A&S web site ([here](#)) are a testament to this.

As our Associate Dean for Curriculum and Instruction, Professor Marshall set the bar of excellence especially high. Her work was driven by a steadfast commitment to improving the educational experience of our students, as was evident in what she contributed to the College. She managed instructional needs so that students had available the courses they needed to progress toward their degrees, she invested in numerous projects that enhanced the course offerings in the College, and she directed College-level decision-making about how to maximize student access to resources that are unique to an R-1 university.

With this announcement of the Marshall Award for Course Development and Curriculum Enhancement, I am proud to pay tribute to Professor Marshall's student-centered vision of how curriculum and instruction can be meaningfully improved. I also thankfully celebrate her many successes in bringing positive and lasting changes to the curriculum of the UNM College of Arts and Sciences.

Arash Mafi
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