



*Office of the Provost & Executive
Vice President for Academic Affairs*

The University of New Mexico • Scholes Hall 240 • MSC05 3400
1 University of New Mexico • Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001
Phone 505. 277.2611 • Fax 505. 277.8275

June 1, 2011

TO: Uday Desai, Director School of Public Affairs

FROM: Suzanne Ortega, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: MHA proposal.

I am writing this letter to strongly endorse your proposal to establish a new Masters in Health Administration (MHA) Degree program. I believe you have done an excellent job of documenting the compelling state and regional demand for Health Administrators with the preparation to meet the rapidly evolving health service environment, including the challenges of financing reform and the health and wellness needs of an aging and demographically diverse population. Your proposal has the strong support of faculty and senior administrators in the Health Science Center and from hospital administrators in communities around New Mexico. While the need for additional resources is modest and can be phased in over time, establishment of a high quality MHA program will, at a minimum, will require one or more new faculty lines. As you know, I will be leaving UNM at the end of this academic year and so am not in a position to be able to make this commitment. Nevertheless, I want to go on record in my support for the program and the strong case you make for its potential. Given the strength of the proposal and the strong support for it from community leaders and many other constituencies, investment for necessary faculty lines is warranted when new I&G support becomes available. Additionally, because this will be a graduate program only, with degree recipients moving into well compensated positions, it is quite plausible that some of the resources for the program could be derived from a differential tuition structure.

In sum, the proposal for an MHA degree is a logical and important next step of the new health specialization within the MPA. It reflects strong university-wide collaboration and support, and promises to meet a growing, extremely important, and unmet work force development need. Thus, I am strongly supportive of it.

Location / Ship to:

Office of the Provost & Executive
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Office of the Dean

01 November, 2010

Uday Desai
Director, School of Public Administration
The University of New Mexico
1 University of New Mexico
MSC 09 5360
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Dr. Desai,

This letter is in support of the proposed Master's in Health Administration drafted by the School of Public Administration.

This program has the potential to assist us in increasing the capacity for health equity and health policy research and teaching at UNM. It complements the current nursing PhD program in health policy. I look forward to the collaboration between our programs.

Sincerely,



Nancy Ridenour, PhD, RN, APRN, BC, FAAN
Professor and Dean



The University of New Mexico • Health Sciences Center

School Of Medicine

Department of Family and Community Medicine

MSC 09-5040

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001

Phone (505) 272-2165 Fax (505) 272-8045

November 15, 2010

Uday Desai, Ph.D.

Director, School of Public Administration

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131-0001

Dear Dr. Desai:

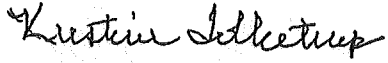
I am writing in strong support of the proposal for a new graduate professional degree, Masters of Health Administration in the School of Public Administration (SPA). This is an area that has been missing in our university's training of health professionals for our state. With the new health care reforms, the health care services industry is one of the few sectors in the economy that continues to grow. Our state is usually at the bottom of the rankings no matter what health indicator is used. This is a serious problem that can be addressed by providing the health care industry in our state with well-trained professionals in health care administration. The key is to train a group of experts in the field who will have the training and skills to fill the administrative and executive level positions in our state and who are likely to remain in the state. It is also vital to provide our Hispanic and American Indian students with the skills needed to fill these positions to ensure that culturally competent leaders are available to work with our under-represented populations.

The faculty members of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program feel that the new master's degree will be an important addition to the other concentrations of the Master of Public Administration curriculum (public management, health resources management, public budgeting and financial management and health policy and administration). It will also fill a much needed gap in the training of professionals specifically for health services administration and policy development. The new degree will also complement our MPH degree since we are not able to offer training in this important area. We often have had students in the past who inquire about a degree in health administration and may ask if we could develop one. The new degree in the SPA is an ideal solution since we currently do not have this type of expertise in our faculty.

The MPH Program is also willing to work with you and your faculty to develop collaborative teaching activities and opportunities that would benefit both the MHA and MPH students. The proposal already includes MPH courses as electives, but we are also interested in other collaborative activities that will emerge as the curriculum is implemented.

We look forward to working with you on this important and vital proposal for a new degree in health administration.

Sincerely,



Kristine Tollestrup, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor and Director
Master of Public Health Program

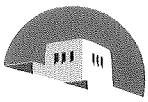
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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO ♦ HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER

UNM HOSPITALS

November 12, 2010

Gene V. Henley
Associate Director
UNM School of Public Administration

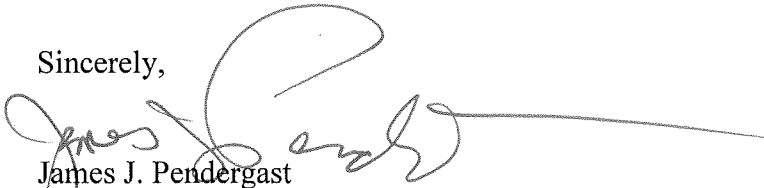
Dear Gene V. Henley:

I am responding on behalf of UNM Hospitals and would like to vigorously support the proposed MHA program. As stated in the proposal, health care is an ever expanding field and demands well educated Administrators to effectively and efficiently carry out the mission of serving the New Mexico population.

With a small state population, it is difficult to recruit for talent within our state borders. However, a program like this would allow for internships and an available pool of well-educated applicants.

UNM Hospitals strongly supports this effort and stands by to assist in any way possible.

Sincerely,



James J. Pendergast
Administrator, Human Resources
UNM Hospitals

JP/sg

cc: Steve McKernan



15 November 2010

UNM School of Public Administration
c/o Gene Henley, SPA Associate Director
MSC05 3100 1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

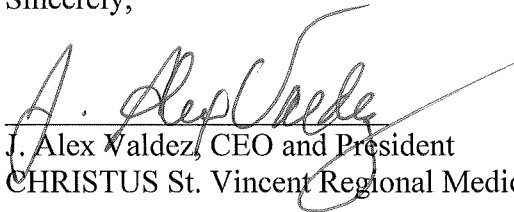
Dear Associate Dean Henley:

Thank you so much for including me in the Advisory Group and for coming to Santa Fe to meet regarding development of a specialty Master's program within the School of Public Administration that will focus on Leadership and Management needs for our Healthcare delivery systems in New Mexico.

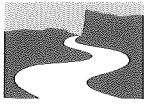
I appreciate the opportunity for input into the substantive development of curriculum so that we may address the future needs of our health care systems. First, we need to have management well trained in business acumen and performance improvement. Many healthcare leaders today have clinical expertise but do not have an understanding of business and performance improvement. It is critical that we develop well rounded skills for the managers of tomorrow. In addition, an understanding of the significance of service excellence is critical. People place their most precious asset in our hands; their lives and the lives of their loved ones. As I tell my staff, no one wants to be here. It is important for us to present our patients and their families with excellent service so that we may ease their pain. Lastly, we need to educate managers and leaders of today and tomorrow to be culturally competent. Far too often we hire from outside of New Mexico. We need to make sure that all of us understand the significance of the state that we live in and more importantly, that we respect the state we live in.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment and to offer CHRISTUS St. Vincent's support for this Masters Degree program in the School of Public Administration in Healthcare Administration. I wish you success in receiving your necessary approvals and in the resulting implementation of a program that graduates can proudly attest to their accomplishment and organizations will look to hire from.

Sincerely,



J. Alex Waldez, CEO and President
CHRISTUS St. Vincent Regional Medical Center



SAN JUAN REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER

801 West Maple Street • Farmington, NM 87401
Telephone (505) 609-2000 • www.sanjuanregional.com

November 15, 2010

Mr. Gene V. Henley
Associate Director
School of Public Administration
MSCO5 3100
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Mr. Henley:

It will be a great pleasure for San Juan Regional Medical Center to support this initiative. The Masters of Health Administration is an excellent degree to prepare students for leadership and management positions in the public, non-profit and for-profit sectors of the healthcare and public health industry.

Please feel free to contact me for any assistance in “making this happen”. I look forward to working with you and your excellent faculty in the years to come. All the best!

Sincerely,

Rick Wallace, FACHE
President / CEO



PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL SERVICES

Building a Healthier State®

November 15, 2010

Dr. Uday Desai, Director
School of Public Administration, University of New Mexico
MSC053100
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dr. Desai:

Presbyterian Medical Services (PMS) is pleased to support the Master's of Health Administration (MHA) program for the University of New Mexico. Approval of this program will fill an important gap in New Mexico and the Southwest labor market and provide highly sought-after training to professionals already living and working in the region thereby creating a more stable labor force picture for health care organizations across the state.

Presbyterian Medical Services is a New Mexico-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit provider of health and human services which has been operating for the past forty years. Our wide scope of services includes medical, behavioral health and dental clinics, school based medical clinics, Early Head Start, pre-K and Head Start programs, home health and hospice programs, along with senior programs and retirement housing. PMS also provides services to developmentally disabled youth in a Residential Treatments Center, Native American Behavioral Health programs and a transportation program.

With 1100 employees working in 89 facilities in 16 counties, Presbyterian Medical Services has a consistent need for dedicated and well educated employees who understand New Mexico. This proposed program could create a professional graduate degree in this very important career area. The MHA program would significantly improve the workforce in New Mexico. Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Hansen
President/CEO





Susana Martinez, Governor

January 27, 2011

School of Public Administration
University of New Mexico
MSC05 3100, 1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

Dear Associate Director Henley,

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of support for the Master's of Health Administration at the School of Public Administration. New Mexico needs well trained professionals to manage our unique multi-cultural health care and social service systems. The School of Public Administration has a distinguished history of providing our state with dedicated professionals who serve the people of New Mexico well.

I wish you every success in receiving the necessary approvals for the curriculum. Please feel free to contact me if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely Yours,

Tony Louderbough MPA, LMSW
Deputy Division Director
Adult Protective Services



November 8, 2010

UNM School of Public Administration
c/o Gene Henley, SPA Associate Director
MSC05 3100 1 University of NM
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Associate Director Henley:

Liz Stefanics has shared information with me regarding the possibility of a specialty Master's program within the School of Public Administration that would focus candidates on the necessity for ethical, professional leadership in our healthcare organizations and institutions. I laud the effort and encourage UNM and the School of Public Administration to implement this program.

There is no doubt that healthcare administration is and will continue to be a challenging and increasingly complex career, whether in the not for profit or for profit world; whether in a universal coverage or fractured insurance and charity care subsidized effort; whether accessible and affordable for all, regardless of whether chronic, acute or wellness issues are a person's concern, or not. For those of us in healthcare administration that learned by doing and from mentors good, bad and indifferent, the possibility of a program that will give structure and perspective to those interested in providing the best administration possible is definitely an effort worth pursuing that will reap benefits for the state and healthcare organizations well into the 21st century.

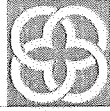
On behalf of the Board of Directors, of Pecos Valley Medical, Inc. (PVMC), our staff and patients, I am pleased to write in support of this effort. As a Federally Qualified Community Health Center, at PVMC we believe that healthcare is as much a right as food, housing, education and clothing for every person in every community, therefore ensuring that healthcare is administered in a fair, and professional manner and that administrators have tools at their disposal to do so will ensure the place of community based health centers and health.

Best wishes with this endeavor and your ambitious but important timeline.

Sincerely,

Sigrid E. Olson
Executive Director

pc: Alex Perea, President, Board of Directors



WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

A National Community Center of Excellence in Women's Health

March 8, 2011

Gene V. Henley, MBA, MPA
Associate Director
School of Public Administration
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Mr. Henley;

I am glad to have had the opportunity to review the Masters of Health Administration (MHA) professional graduate degree proposal.

As a director working for the past 18 years in New Mexico, I support your efforts to bring this program to UNM. I attended Brandeis University's Heller Graduate School of Public Policy, and graduated with a similar degree. My education has helped me enhance health care professionalism at institutions and the health of our communities.

The Curriculum Plan to encompass health care finance, management of health care systems, health governance, health law and ethics, and evaluation of health policy will prepare students for the growing number of professional positions in health services administration and policy arenas.

In the near future, I see a huge demand for a program that would provide training in the public sector, non-profit and public policy dimensions of healthcare and health services administration.

I believe this initiative will provide the critical leadership for educating, and retaining highly qualified individuals in the State of New Mexico. I am confident this is important to New Mexico health care organizations and I support the Masters of Health Administration (MHA) program.

Thank you again for your requesting my comments.

Best,

Nancy S. Adelsheim
Executive Director
Women's Health Services
Santa Fe, NM

HEALTHFRONT

UNM School of Public Administration
C/O Gene Henley
MSC05 3100, 1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131

November 22, 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to write this letter in support of the development of a Master's of Health Administration Program at UNM's School of Public Administration.

New Mexico has a divergent population with complex healthcare needs. As an independent provider of care in Santa Fe, we are continually looking for ways to improve upon our efficiencies and delivery methods. Properly trained staff members, or those who could be nurtured into leadership positions are difficult to find. The proposed MHA program will help to grow New Mexican talent pool. Certainly, there will be opportunities for those graduates to give back to the community and utilize their talents within the state.

There is high demand for well trained health service administrators in New Mexico. With the implementation of healthcare reform, more executive level administrators will be called on to understand these processes.

The UNM's Master's of Health Administration program is vital to our statewide community to ensure the best quality of care is provided to our patients. Nurturing the talents and teaching in-demand skills to the students of UNM is a great goal and one that has our full support.

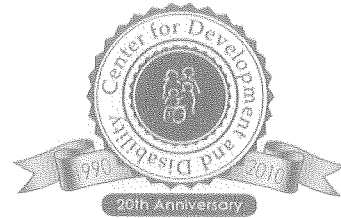
Sincerely,



Karen Tiegler
Practice Administrator

HEALTHFRONT P.C.
1640 Old Pecos Trail Suite H
Santa Fe, NM 87505

office 505.992.0233 fax 505.992.0609
www.HEALTHFRONTNM.com



November 15, 2010

Re: The Proposed Masters of Health Administration (MHA), UNM School of Public Administration

It is with genuine enthusiasm that I send this letter of support for the Master's of Health Administration degree proposed by the University of New Mexico School of Public Administration. The synthesis of health care expertise and administrative knowledge requires both academic and experiential preparation that may be challenging for New Mexicans to acquire. While there are many talented professionals throughout the state who have substantial experience within health care delivery, the opportunity to enhance that experience with a focused administrative degree would provide a new level of human resource for the state's non-profit and public workforce.

In addition, there are New Mexican students who will be encouraged to apply their primary preparation in areas of policy or management to the health care arena, as it remains one of the reliable areas of job growth and satisfaction. Currently, the lack of such a degree path as the School of Public Administration is proposing may delay the development of promising careers in health care administration as a candidate pieces together alternate routes. For many, this degree would offer the ideal combination of substantive administrative education with mentoring at the professional level in public service.

There is no doubt that there is substantial potential for graduates of such a program. Both my own work and that of my colleagues at the UNM Center for Development and Disability is a daily reinforcement of the need for precisely this type of educational offering. I look forward to the value this will add to the state's continuing quest for public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Brightwater". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Elaine Brightwater, RN-BC, CNM, DNP
Senior Project Coordinator
Disability and Health Policy Division
ebrightwater@salud.unm.edu