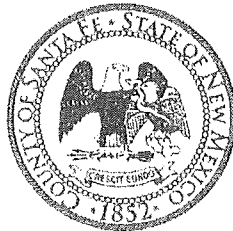


Daniel "Danny" Mayfield
Commissioner, District 1

Virginia Vigil
Commissioner, District 2

Robert A. Anaya
Commissioner, District 3



Kathy Holian
Commissioner, District 4

Liz Stefanics
Commissioner, District 5

Katherine Miller
County Manager

December 30, 2011

UNM School of Public Administration
Attn: Mr. Gene Henley
MSC05 3100
1 University of UNM
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Dear Mr. Henley:

It is a pleasure to receive your correspondence notifying us that the University of New Mexico is considering development a masters' level program in Health Administration. A program like this is overdue for our state in order to match competent homegrown Health Administration Managers with the growing healthcare needs of our state. Allowing students to stay at their current jobs, and integrate the advanced education they are receiving with their practical employment, will only serve to make this program more valuable.

I would like to thank you and Commissioner Stefanics for asking me to write a letter of support for this valuable proposed program. I serve as one of the three Health and Human Services Directors that I know of at the county level in New Mexico. In the other counties employees with accounting, clerical, and other backgrounds have been pressed into service to administer local healthcare programs, such as the county Indigent Funds. An opportunity to earn this type of degree, and gain the associated knowledge would be a great benefit to me, and many others around the state.

I fully support your efforts to initiate this program, and would be happy, along with others in the field, to help you initiate the program for the benefit of the state. I believe we are going to need experienced and well educated Health Administrators to take our state through Healthcare Reform, and improve existing systems that will continue beyond it.

Please feel free to call me at (505)-992-9840, or e-mail me at sshepherd@santafecounty.org, with anything I can help you with.

Sincerely

Stephen Shepherd, Director
Santa Fe County Health & Human Services



Charlotte Roybal, Director
charlotte@policyconnections.org
PO Box 5962 / Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502
505-930-0563

December 9, 2011

Gene Henley,
UNM School of Public Administration
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87131

Dear Mr. Henley:

As a nonprofit organization in New Mexico specifically working on health policy issues and health care reform, we lend our support to your endeavor to create a Master's of Health Administration program at UNM.

With the implementation of health care reform, work force development will be a critical part of its implementation in New Mexico. We will need many levels of healthcare providers in order to accommodate the demand for services. In particular, our rural areas that have hospitals and community health centers of which there are many, will critically need this expertise.

The MHA will prepare students for careers in health care administration and provide the leadership training necessary for careers in health care management and health program and policy analysis. The emphasis of such a program on recruiting New Mexicans is especially important in order that people who acquire this degree can return to their community. The development of culturally competent health administrators is of equal importance.

As health insurance becomes more readily available to all New Mexicans, the demand for services will increase substantially. Hospitals and community health centers have the potential to serve more patients with health insurance in the near future and it is vital that qualified expertise is available to manage these institutions. This program will be the only program available in New Mexico and will attract lower level employees currently working in New Mexico hospitals to receive such a degree. These qualifications are very important as more people have access to health care in our state. We give our full support to this effort.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Roybal



December 20, 2011

Mr. Gene Henley
UNM School of Public Administration
MSC05 3100
1 University of NM
Albuquerque, NM 87131

Re: Master's of Health Administration (MHA) Program

Dear Mr. Henley,

I've followed the efforts to develop an MHA program at the University of New Mexico with some interest. I write to express our support for these efforts. A Master's of Health Administration program would be a welcome addition to the curriculum of UNM.

The healthcare field is tremendously challenging. New Mexico faces an ongoing need, in both quantity and quality terms, for healthcare administrators with a full grasp of operations, public policy, health reform principles and how such issues apply in the unique environment of our state.

Speaking for my constituency of hospitals, it would be very helpful to have more locally educated professionals that understand the complex fabric of our state culture and politics. We need more specific healthcare skills to meet the demanding requirements of healthcare delivery. Hospitals must often pull from the pool of other disciplines when filling their administrative positions, especially in middle management.

Healthcare and hospitals are key drivers of the state economy. Hospitals directly employ over 28,000 jobs with a payroll of \$1.86 billion. Adding in other hospital expenditures and accounting for the multiplied economic impact, hospitals generate over \$10 billion in total economic activity. That doesn't count the many other care settings and health financing organizations. It is critical that the educational sector provide the needed workforce for the healthcare sector. That focus is often on the education of caregivers such as doctors and nurses. Professional management is just as important to operationalize and coordinate the many other elements of the system. In fact, health care organizations need an infusion of new management skills to help build a new system based on new incentives and relationships. I'm confident that a Master's of Health Administration program based in New Mexico could address many of these needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Dye".

Jeff Dye
President and CEO



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Albuquerque

Executive Director
Dolores E. Roybal

December 21, 2011

UNM School of Public Administration
C/O Gene Henley, SPA Associate Director
MSC05 3100, 1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131
ghenley@unm.edu

Re: Letter of Support – UNM School of Public Administration's Proposed
New Master's of Health Administration Program

Dear Mr. Henley,

Please accept this letter of support submitted on behalf of the University of New Mexico (UNM) School of Public Administration's development of a Master's of Health Administration program. The new degree program will be the only one in New Mexico designed to meet the current and growing need for more professionally trained and educated health administrators.

The proposed program would fill a critical gap in our health workforce needs. As a statewide funder and the largest foundation dedicated solely to health in New Mexico, Con Alma Health Foundation's core values includes support for the development of health care professionals who reflect the cultural and linguistic diversity of New Mexico resulting in greater opportunities for those under-represented in the health care fields, and the creation of new knowledge that broadens the understanding of health issues. UNM's proposed new Master's of Health Administration program would provide a valuable contribution to increasing the health workforce in our state in the growing health care services industry; especially in view of health care reform and the demand for new health administrators and related personnel.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide further information in support of this effort. You can reach me via email at droybal@conalma.org or by phone at 505.438.0776 ext. 6. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dolores E. Roybal
Executive Director

December 15, 2011

Dr. Gene Henley
School of Public Administration
UNM School of Public Administration, MSC05 3100,
1 University of NM, Albuquerque, NM 87131
Sent via e-mail to ghenley@unm.edu

Dear Dr. Henley,

I am writing to endorse UNM's new Master's of Health Administration program; I believe the proposed program meets the need to prepare for future administrators and leaders of health care organizations in northern New Mexico and the entire state.

This new degree program will be the only program in the state of New Mexico to meet the current and growing need for more professionally trained and educated health administrators. It will serve our communities by providing high quality graduate professional education and training to our students who would remain in and serve their communities. It is especially reassuring that the program will go through the national Committee on Accreditation of HealthCare Management Education, ensuring that it is in line with national standards and requirements.

The proposed program would provide students and employees at SFCC an important opportunity to seek a Master's degree while remaining in the community. We believe that upon completion of their graduate program in Health Administration, such individuals would be even more valuable to SFCC, and would make important contributions to our communities for years to come.

I welcome the opportunity to provide testimony on the value of the proposed program. Please know that you may use my name, photo, and an approved quote to support your efforts in obtaining final approvals for the degree.

Sincerely,



Sheila Ortego, Ph.D.
President