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EDUCATION EXPERT JOINS UC STAFF IN NEW MEXICO

Focus on educational development, preparedness for students and families

A nationally recognized expert in higher education, now living in New Mexico, is representing the University of California in its work with organizations and institutions in New Mexico to strengthen the quality of education in the state and improve educational preparation for students and their families.

Rae Lee Siporin, for more than 20 years the director of undergraduate admissions and relations with schools at UCLA, has been retained by UC as special assistant for education relations in New Mexico. Siporin recently retired from UCLA and moved to Corrales, NM. Upon her retirement UCLA bestowed on her the designation of emerita, a rare distinction for administrators in the UC system.

The university, which manages the Los Alamos laboratory for the National Nuclear Security Administration, views educational development as an integral aspect of its overall presence in northern New Mexico and its continuing participation on issues of importance to the region and its residents.

In New Mexico, Siporin will concentrate her efforts in the northern region of the state, working in coordination with the laboratory's educational relations office and the UC Northern New Mexico Office.

Tim Gutierrez, senior program manager in the University of New Mexico's division of student affairs, described Siporin as "a very positive role model and leader." He said she will work well with UNM and other educational institutions in New Mexico on the shared goal of improving the quality of education and prepare and recruit students to go on to institutions of higher learning in New Mexico and elsewhere.

She comes in with impressive credentials and an extremely positive outlook from the standpoint of ensuring that students from New Mexico go on to higher education, Gutierrez said of Siporin. I'm impressed with that and I look forward to working with her.

Siporin said, "I am very excited to be living in New Mexico and working

on behalf of students and their educational opportunities. This is a dream come true for me, to help improve the quality of education, assist students to become lifelong learners and help them ultimately achieve the foundation they need for wonderful career opportunities.

“I especially look forward to building connections between the University of California and the various people and institutions in New Mexico working so hard to benefit students who are currently from low-income and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. This is a tremendous challenge for us and must be a top priority for our nation to strengthen the quality of educational preparation for the future benefit of students and society.”

Siporin’s particular interests and assigned responsibilities on behalf of UC in New Mexico center on the following:

- Work with policy makers to help increase the quality of educational preparation for students from kindergarten through the college and university level.
- Assist counselors and school administrators as they develop educational planning for students, and assist in developing joint programs to serve students and families.
- Visit high schools and community colleges to meet one-on-one with students on preparation required for proper college readiness, and represent UC in admissions, educational relations and academic development for students at New Mexico schools.
- Facilitate linkages among New Mexico educational institutions, the Los Alamos laboratory, UC campuses, funding agencies, schools districts, and cooperative agreement pueblos in northern New Mexico.
- Serve on and advise the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation Scholarship Advisory Committee and the Northern New Mexico Council on Excellence in Education (NNMCEE), with particular attention to the Math and Science Academy formed by LANL and NNMCEE.

Siporin will report to Rulon Linford at the UC Office of the President in Oakland. He is UC’s associate vice provost for research and laboratory programs and assistant vice president for laboratory programs.

Siporin joined UCLA, one of the largest and most diverse campuses in the 10-campus UC system, in 1979 as the campus, director of undergraduate admissions and relations with schools. Earlier in her career she was an assistant professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh and then

assistant dean of the college of arts and sciences at the university. She moved on to administrative positions at other colleges and universities before taking on the UCLA appointment.

Throughout her career in higher education, Siporin has received several honors and commendations and served on state and national organizations and committees on issues related to educational quality, access to higher education and preparedness for college and university admission and attendance.

Siporin earned her bachelor's degree, with distinction, from Wayne State University and both her master's degree and Ph.D., also with distinction, from UCLA.