

**Brian Burnett, Campaign Chair, Our Time Kickoff Speech  
November 3, 2021**

Thank you, Dean Christos. What a beautiful New Mexico evening we have.

I'm Brian Burnett, a graduate of the UNM Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering Department, and I certainly agree with the dean that this is a historic day for the School of Engineering.

Behind the scenes over the last three years, a dedicated group of people have been working diligently to formulate a road map to raise millions and millions of dollars.

All of this began with a dream of doing something very different, a vision inspired by the energetic leadership of Dean Christos. Without the dean's support, we wouldn't be here today.

The gift from Dana Wood also gave us the confidence early on to plan boldly. And this gift has had a profound reach throughout the School of Engineering as we celebrated on Monday the ribbon cutting for the state-of-the-art Media Lab in the Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering Department. This significant effort, led by Department Chair Dr. Mahmoud Taha, was made possible in part by this gift.

The campaign's three year "silent phase" is now over and it's safe to say that we've connected with hundreds of engineering alumni for their early support. We've been blown away by the generosity of so many people whose lives have been greatly impacted by The University of New Mexico and the School of Engineering.

When the pandemic hit, we quickly made the decision to forge ahead, and our collective efforts have provided a very solid foundation for the campaign's public phase.

I'm extremely honored to officially kick off **OUR TIME: The Campaign for the UNM School of Engineering**.

President John F. Kennedy famously said in 1962, "We choose to go to the Moon ... not because it is easy, but because it is hard." And it's this mindset of doing something bold that motivates us.

It's **OUR TIME** to shoot for the stars and attempt to raise \$50 million over a total six-year period, with the money going directly to support students and faculty.

It's **OUR TIME** to embrace something never tried before and put aside any thoughts that the goal is too high, or that we should play it safe.

It's **OUR TIME** to believe that the \$50 million goal is readily attainable because the generosity of our alumni will continue to shine brightly.

It's **OUR TIME** to proclaim around the globe the profile of the School of Engineering as being an outstanding place of learning and research that leads to lifechanging opportunities for everyone who decides to be an engineering Lobo.

And it's **OUR TIME** for every alumnus to reflect on how the School of Engineering has impacted their life and consider how to give back financially to support the School of Engineering's mission: one of empowering our students to grow into engineers whose work improves our quality of life and continues our faculty's excellence in teaching and research that inspire our students and help solve our world's most difficult challenges.

There's no doubt that reaching the **OUR TIME** campaign goal will be challenging, but at the same time easy because of the encouragement that comes from connecting with alumni and hearing the heartfelt stories of what the School of Engineering has meant in their lives.

An effort of this magnitude could not have been possible without a group of amazing and generous alumni who serve on the campaign steering committee, some of whom are here tonight and others watching remotely. It's my honor to introduce:

- Delores Etter - Vice Chair
- Michael Dexter
- Ed Angel
- Roger Koerner
- Samantha Lapin
- Ron Marquez
- Gerald May
- Wayne Brasure
- Gil Herrera
- Polle Zellweger
- Steve Mitchell

**It's been an exciting journey so far, and we can't wait to unveil three years from now a figure that exceeds the \$50 million goal.**

**As chair of the campaign, you have my pledge to give 100% over the next 1,095 days, and I'm confident that there will be countless others who will do the same.**

**Yes, it's OUR TIME to shine for the UNM School of Engineering!**

**Thank you for being here. Go Lobos!**

