



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Hoops 4 Hope” Legislative Basketball Game Raises \$20,000 for UNM Cancer Center

NM House edges out Senate, 33-26; game draws over 400 attendees

Albuquerque, NM—March 4, 2011—The House “Aggies” and the Senate “Lobos” faced off in the Santa Fe High School gym on Thursday, March 3, in an eagerly anticipated annual match-up whose proceeds benefit the UNM Cancer Center. This year, the House edged out the Senate for a final score of 33 to 26. But New Mexicans affected by cancer were the true winners. The “Hoops 4 Hope” game raised a record-breaking \$20,000 for the UNM Cancer Center, doubling last year’s amount of \$10,200. More than 400 people, including Albuquerque mayor Richard Berry, cheered on the legislators and helped support the cause of cancer care and research in New Mexico.

“It was a fantastic evening,” said Dr. Cheryl Willman, Director and CEO of the UNM Cancer Center. “We are so grateful to our legislators, the game’s sponsors and everyone who turned out for the game. The proceeds will help us continue to deliver the world-class cancer care that all New Mexicans deserve and to conduct cutting-edge scientific research into cancer causes and cures right here in New Mexico.”

“Hoops 4 Hope” Raises \$20,000 – cont.

Cancer in New Mexico

Cancer is a leading cause of death in New Mexico, second only to heart disease. The illness accounts for one in five deaths in New Mexico every year. Approximately 9,100 New Mexicans will be diagnosed with cancer this year; another 3,400 will die from the disease. Breast, lung and colorectal cancer are the most commonly diagnosed cancers among New Mexican women; prostate, lung and colorectal cancer are the most common cancers affecting men in the state. Rates of cancer diagnosis and death vary widely among New Mexico’s multicultural and multiethnic populations. In fact, the state exhibits some of the worst cancer health disparities in the nation. Understanding and reducing these disparities is a top priority for the UNM Cancer Center.

About the UNM Cancer Center

The UNM Cancer Center is the Official Cancer Center of New Mexico and the only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated cancer center in the state. One of just 66 NCI-designated cancer centers nationwide, the UNM Cancer Center is recognized for its scientific excellence, contributions to cancer research and delivery of medical advances to patients and their families. It is home to 85 board-certified oncology physicians representing every cancer specialty and 127 research scientists hailing from such prestigious institutions as M.D. Anderson, Johns Hopkins and the Mayo Clinic. The UNM Cancer Center treats more than 65% of the adults and virtually all of the children in New Mexico affected by cancer, from every county in the state. In 2010, it provided care to more than 15,800 cancer patients. The Center’s research programs are supported by over \$59 million annually in federal and private funding.

UNM Cancer Center contact information

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