

# New Mexico State University

## **Dr. Luis Cifuentes, Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, New Mexico State University**

From 2012-2017, Cifuentes was vice president for Research, Commercialization and Outreach at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi (TAMUCC). Before moving to New Mexico State University in July 2018, he served as special assistant to the president.

At TAMUCC, Cifuentes oversaw increases in sponsored research and led the drive to have the university designated as one of the national FAA test sites. His research background is in oceanography and he has been a leader on research grants totaling more than \$5 million.

In addition to administration, he has been active in research with over \$5.5 million in grant moneys awarded. Most recently, he served as PI on an NSF research coordination network project that built a network in South Texas, which includes eight Texas universities (five HSIs) and the Southwest Research Institute, and has organized international conferences in Scotland and Mexico.

Prior to serving at TAMUCC, Cifuentes was on the faculty of Texas A&M University College Station (TAMU), where he rose from assistant professor to professor in the Department of Oceanography. He also served as executive associate dean and associate dean for research in the College of Geosciences at TAMU.

Cifuentes is no stranger to New Mexico. Since the late 1980s, he and his wife, Lauren, have visited the state regularly – she has close relatives who grew chiles in Hatch, New Mexico. They look forward to experiencing Las Cruces' rich arts and culture.

He is also particularly interested in joining NMSU due to its land-grant mission and status as a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

"It's important that Hispanic-Serving Institutions truly serve their Hispanic students," he said, which includes providing meaningful, important research opportunities that lead to jobs or acceptance to graduate school.

Cifuentes has a bachelor's with honors in chemistry from Swarthmore College as well as a master's in marine studies and a Ph.D. in oceanography, both from the University of Delaware.