

May 16, 2018



42 Years Later, David Matta Retires From UMC

When David Matta joined UMC, a peanut farmer named Jimmy Carter had not yet been elected President; Apple Computer Company was just getting started with a couple of guys in a garage, and the average cost of a gallon of gasoline was 59 cents. For many people, that seems like a long time ago – but for David, it seems like yesterday.

"I knew this day and this year were eventually going to arrive," said David, UMC's Director of Radiology. "But it's here sooner than I had planned." Those who know David, know him as a thoughtful leader, a friend to most and a champion for all things UMC. David even credits UMC for helping him to meet his wife.



David at his retirement event.



David in the Radiology Department.

"I will never be able to fully express the level of care and passion that I have for UMC," he said. Throughout the years, David has witnessed and taken part in the transformation of a hospital from a county hospital that opened its doors more than a century ago to the now-high tech, spacious and modern hospital that UMC is today. He has seen many CEOs, has met thousands of UMC Associates as well as patients, and is known throughout UMC as the informal historian.

David held onto many news clippings, letters, newsletters, photos, and more from decades ago. Going through the images is like taking a walk through a hospital time machine. The lessons that he learned over the years, however, have been distilled to a simple, effective and poignant message. "We only get one opportunity to make the best of each day," he said. "Put all your energy and actions into making that day special for those around you, at work and at home."

Thank you, David, for all of your years, dedication and care for UMC's patients, coworkers and community. *(David's final day at UMC is May 18. Only one other Associate has more time working at our hospital than David, by two months.)*

Omar Villa Is UMC's New Chief Legal Officer

On May 21, Omar Villa begins the next chapter of his career in law as the leader of UMC's team of legal professionals and our new Chief Legal Officer.

"Omar is going to be a great addition to the El Paso County Hospital District's Legal Department," said Jacob Cintron, UMC President & CEO.

"I have seen firsthand his legal judgement, reasoned opinions and ability to lead," he said. "He has experience guiding and advising leaders in our community through very complex issues, of particular note is his work as legal counsel to the Emergence Health Network Board of Trustees. Omar has my confidence that he will bring those same well-reasoned skills as a legal counselor to his new post on our leadership team as our new Chief Legal Officer. He has a great team to support him. We are all looking forward to Omar hitting the ground running."



Omar Villa

Omar's most recent responsibilities as Assistant County Attorney for El Paso County (since 2010) include providing legal counsel in matters of personal injury, contract disputes, employment disputes, workers compensation, civil rights violations and personal property claims.

Omar received his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 2005 from Texas Tech University in 2005. He also has a Master's Degree in Planning and a Bachelor's Degree in Planning & Development from the University of Southern California.

Welcome, Omar!

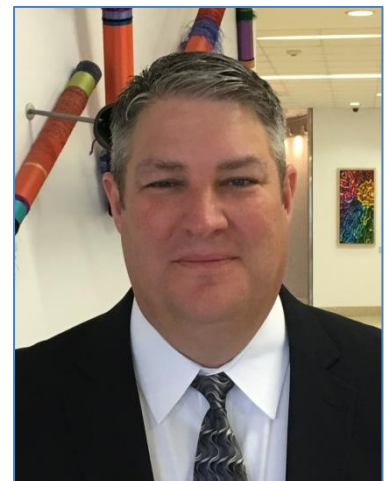
New Leaders Take Helm, Managing Clinics, Radiology

Two new leaders arrived at UMC recently and are already working hard for patients, families, programs, and their new work family: UMC Associates.

Leonor "Leo" Chavez is our new Administrative Director of UMC's Neighborhood Healthcare Centers. Leo comes to UMC with over 30 years of experience, most recently as the Administrative Director of Outpatient



Leonor Chavez



Gregory Erickson

Services at the Hospitals of Providence.

Leo has a Bachelor of Science degree in Management. Leo is a highly skilled manager and professional who has led medical centers, clinics, and departments in the healthcare industry. She has already brought new ideas and energy to UMC's clinics.

Gregory Erickson is our new Director of Imaging Services. Gregory brings 16 years of experience in medical operations and service line development, most recently as the System Director of Imaging and Oncology Services in Arkansas at a 225-bed regional health center. Gregory is certified in Nuclear Medicine Technology and is a Medical Radiology Technologist. Gregory has a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Healthcare Management.

Gregory will bring his imaging leadership and organizational management experience to manage one of UMC's busiest departments: Radiology.

If you see Leo or Gregory throughout our hospital or clinics, please take a moment to welcome them to UMC, our community and the nearly 3,000 new members of their work family.

From Nurses Day to Hospital Week, May Brought Fun Events To Associates

UMC celebrated our Nurses with a special Star Wars-themed breakfast and luncheon in honor of Nurses' Week! UTEP's Pay Dirt Pete made it a "dancing" good time at the Nurses Day breakfast for UMC's night-shift nurses. At lunch, lightsabers were drawn but there were no injuries as the Star Wars heroes only showed up for fun. During lunch, nurses



Roxanne Weisendanger, UMC's Interim Chief Nursing Officer, and Pay Dirt Pete kick off Nurses Day with a breakfast for all night shift nurses at the Bistro. At left nurses have fun hamming it up with Star Wars characters.

got to enjoy great food, play Star Wars Loteria and pose in the photo booth. The following week, UMC and EPCH Associates were treated to a partner event with games, food, music and dancing. The week closed out with a karaoke event in the cafeteria that brought out some of the most surprisingly skilled voices in El Paso. The next time someone tells you there's a karaoke event at UMC, get there early and get a good seat because it's the best show in town!

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About The Pulse

The Pulse newsletter, is a product of the UMC Public Affairs office and features news briefs and updates from around our campus. It is distributed to our El Paso community. If you have an item that you would like to have considered for The Pulse, email it to [Ryan Mielke, UMC Director of Public Affairs](#).