Suzanne Ortega
Executive Vice President and Provost, University of New Mexico

Suzanne Ortega was appointed the Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of New Mexico in August 2008. Prior to this, she served for three years as Vice Provost and Graduate Dean at the University of Washington. Ortega also served as Vice Provost for Advanced Studies and Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Missouri from 2000 – 2005 and as Assistant/Associate Graduate Dean from 1994 – 2000 at the University of Nebraska.

With primary research interests in mental health epidemiology, health services, and race and ethnic relations, Ortega is the author or co-author of numerous journal articles, book chapters, and an introductory sociology text, now in its seventh edition. An award-winning teacher, she was the principal investigator or co-investigator on grants totaling more than $6 million in state and federal funds.

Ortega has served on the Executive Board of the National Association of State Universities and Land-grant Colleges (NASULGC) Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education. Since renamed the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, it is the oldest higher education association in the United States, with more than 200 public universities as members. She also served as Chair of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools and Council of Graduate Schools’ Boards, as well as the GRE® (Graduate Record Examinations®) Board.

She earned her bachelor’s degree in sociology at Austin Peay State University and her master’s and doctoral degrees in sociology at Vanderbilt University.