

Rod McSherry, a native New Mexican and a proud Aggie alumnus, is the interim associate provost for International and Border Programs at New Mexico State University. He most recently served as associate professor and director of the Office of Global Agricultural Initiatives at NMSU's College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences where he also was the Gerald Thomas Chair for Sustainable Agriculture. Mr. McSherry served as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Foreign Service from 1988 to 2012, completing his tenure as a Senior Foreign Service Officer and returning home to New Mexico.

In his current role as associate provost, Mr. McSherry is implementing a USAID Farmer-to-Farmer program in Colombia to support post-conflict economic stabilization and prosperity, as well as promote international participation from NMSU faculty and staff. He is also leading the way in student and faculty mobility efforts with the neighboring Mexican states of Chihuahua and Sonora, developing creative ways to engage companies on both sides of the border to support education and workforce development.

Mr. McSherry brings more than 30 years of experience in international diplomacy and development in over 60 countries during which he focused on economic development, food security, trade policy and engagement of the global research and education community. Rod has developed and maintained an expanded network of international professionals across the globe - from the complex and intricate EU countries to fast emerging Latin American and Asian nations to volatile situations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He began his international career as an international student in France and Greece, where in the latter he participated in and returned to manage an international work experience abroad program and practicum for global agricultural students. Mr. McSherry began his diplomatic work in the USSR in 1989 and was stationed in Moscow throughout the breakup of the Soviet Union and the creation of the 15 newly independent states, transferring to his next assignment in 1993. Other assignments included Mexico, Venezuela, Thailand, Iraq, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom. He is bilingual (Spanish) and speaks Thai, French, and Russian.

A key component of Mr. McSherry's portfolio has been research and education exchanges that engaged U.S. Land Grant Universities. He helped move international researchers, policy makers, community developers and students between the U.S. and international partner institutions to advance mutual understanding and broad-based academic and scientific excellence.

Mr. McSherry distinguishes himself by having maintained a strong connection to private sector companies throughout his career, particularly in the development and implementation of global engagement strategies that included research, training, and sharing of best practices.

Mr. McSherry earned his bachelor's degree in agriculture (1984) and master's in international agricultural economics (1986), both from New Mexico State University. He is currently a doctoral candidate (economic development), also at New Mexico State University. Rod grew up on the family's cattle ranch and crop farm in New Mexico, about 30 minutes north of the Mexican border, where he and his family maintain their hundred-year plus tradition.