



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

I would first like to thank the many of you who attended the town hall last week, either in person or via the livestream on [Facebook](#). The ongoing dialog has been very helpful for me and I hope you feel that your questions are being addressed in a meaningful way. Please continue to forward me your concerns and ideas at [unmpres@unm.edu](mailto:unmpres@unm.edu).

### Student Scholarly Excellence

I am proud to announce that two UNM students have once again been nationally recognized as recipients of the [Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program](#), that supports students who intend to pursue careers in science, mathematics and engineering. Jonathon Cordova, a senior majoring in biochemistry student in the College of Arts and Sciences, hopes to conduct cutting edge biomedical research in the field of cancer genomics after obtaining a Ph.D. from a clinical and translational biomedical science program.

Randy Ko, a senior majoring in biochemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences, intends to pursue a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering to conduct research in nanomaterials used for biomedical applications and teach at the university level. Jane Nguyen, a senior majoring in chemical engineering in the School of Engineering, received an honorable mention from the organization. The recognition of these students speaks volumes about their ambition and education, as well as the dedication and support of their faculty mentors.

### Shared Knowledge Conference

World-class research and the creative work of students from across all departments and fields of study will all be a part of UNM's annual [Shared Knowledge Conference](#) on April 6 at the Student Union Building (SUB), Ballroom C. The event, hosted by the Office Graduate Studies, provides the ideal environment to share scholarship, consider new ideas and develop professional skills.

### Spring Storm and Fiestas

Community service is an essential component of Lobo spirit. Lobos dedicate many hours each year to benefit non-profits and those in need, and this Saturday will be one of the largest annual events for volunteerism. Hundreds of students will come together Saturday morning at University Stadium for [Spring Storm](#), before going out to several sites in Albuquerque for service projects. I'd like to thank ASUNM Community Experience for coordinating this event and thank all our volunteers in advance for giving time to

this great cause. Following the event, students and community members are encouraged to attend [Fiestas](#), a free concert event organized by ASUNM Student Special Events.

Also, congratulations to everyone who showed true Lobo spirit by helping to raise over \$50,000 for UNM Children's Hospital through [LoboTHON](#) over the past weekend!

### **Cutting Textbook Costs**

There is a simple way to help reduce the cost of college, and that is to help with the cost of textbooks. When instructors select textbooks on time, they make it possible for the UNM Bookstore to provide less expensive alternatives for our students. All teaching faculty should have received an email from the Bookstore on March 29, 2017 with a personalized link to assist in the ordering process. Assuming there are no open-source materials available for courses, delaying the decision and choice of required course materials will only hurt our students financially. I expect that we will all work together to making a UNM education not only valuable in the long run, but a value in terms of immediate costs as well.

### **The City of Yes and The City of No**

Last week, then Russian-born poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko died in Tulsa, Okla. His New York Times [obituary](#) reflects his complex life and politics. I would like to share one of his [poems](#) that resonated with me and, I believe, reflects aspects of our current national dialogues.

Chaouki T. Abdallah

Acting President

Follow me on Twitter [@chaoukita](#)

*There is so much more that happens on the UNM campus than can be conveyed in a weekly message. To find out about the latest stories and events, please visit the [UNM Newsroom](#), the central source of news and information for the UNM community.*