

## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon and welcome back!

I am very excited to see the Fall 2017 semester kicking off with so much energy and enthusiasm. Freshman Family Day was a tremendous success, and for that I want to thank the Office of the University Secretary, the Dean of Students Office, Student Activities Center, and all the volunteers who made the event possible.

### What Unites Us

As we begin another academic year, I would like to address the university, not as a member of the faculty or an administrator, but as a member of the greater UNM community. In doing so, I hope to [highlight the links that bind us together](#). What unites us is a thirst for knowledge and a duty to serve our community and the larger society – what binds us is stronger than what separates us. Whatever differences we have, and whatever professional, religious, social, or racial divisions are imposed upon us, [what unites us is the mission](#) of UNM and our collective aspiration for a better university and a more just world. Leaders often lead by stoking our emotions and instincts. Some call on our best nature to serve country, fellow humans, and a higher purpose. Others highlight our worst by reducing us to smaller and smaller tribes. At UNM, we have the opportunity and responsibility to choose wisely. May this academic year be one that has us taking the right path – together.

### Onsite Preventive Health Checkups

Enrolled in the UNM Medical Plan? Take advantage of the 2017 onsite preventive health checkups to learn more about your health and to earn a premium credit. Employee Health Promotion cares about your well-being and is coordinating this convenient, onsite initiative provided by Catapult Health! From now through Oct. 6, 2017, UNM employees covered on the UNM Medical Plan can earn \$200 for eligible employees, \$100 for eligible spouse or domestic partner. This premium credit is for 2017-2018, and applies to active employees and their covered spouses or domestic partners. You may receive the credit this year even if you received it last year. For additional details and to schedule your screening, visit [hr.unm.edu/checkups](http://hr.unm.edu/checkups).

### History of The University of New Mexico

For the first time ever, the History Department (and Dr. Taylor Spence) is offering a class about the “History of The University of New Mexico.” I will be giving the introductory lecture on Tuesday, Aug. 22 from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. in the Waters Room, in the Zimmerman Library. The title of my lecture is “What is the University For?” For more information about this class, visit [“The History of The University of New Mexico.”](#)

Until next time.

Chaouki Abdallah  
Interim President

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*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.*