

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Each of Us Defines All of Us

On Saturday, I visited with an amazing group of people helping fellow New Mexicans get healthy by building a community of runners. The group "[Running Medicine](#)," led by Dr. Anthony Fleg, was "launched in 2016 with the understanding that running and exercise is a beautiful and potent medicine for mind, body and spirit."



The group "Running Medicine" was established in 2016.

With the Charlottesville attacks and Texas floods both weighing heavy on my mind, I wanted to remind the campus community that both human-initiated and natural tests are upon us. How we respond to these tests will define us, the future of our institution, and beyond.

Regarding the Texas floods, just as we did for students fleeing Hurricane Katrina in 2005, we will accept and support those forced to leave their state in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. I would also like to call attention to our current students, faculty, and staff who may have family and friends affected by this storm. I know I do not need to remind you to help in accommodating their needs and provide support to them.

At the same time that we are seeing those affected by Harvey in utter despair, we are also seeing messages of hate, violence and division propagating online and on campuses, while acts of heroism and humanity abound. From those of you who are helping the less fortunate in Texas, to those who assisted victims of Charlottesville, to our own [Disaster Medical Assistance Team](#), you define us. Those who post threats to anyone on our campus and encourage acts of violence, do not represent UNM, and will be countered by our better nature and climate of diversity and inclusion.

Lobo Rainforest Building Open for Business

On Friday, I had the pleasure of seeing an idea become a reality. The [Lobo Rainforest Building](#), the anchor to Innovate ABQ, is now open for business. The innovationAcademy (iA) will hold an internship fair on Tuesday, Aug. 29, from 3:30-5 p.m., at the Lobo Rainforest Building, for students ready to apply their entrepreneurial spirit by mingling and interacting with employers in search of interns for this semester. [Sign-up is free](#), and iA will be on hand to help facilitate credits for internships.

Re-engineering the University

The internal discussions and challenges at UNM are not unique. The Association of Governing Boards just [published a report](#) describing the challenges facing universities, their boards and presidents. Our own approach is beginning. Learn more at [Beyond UNM2020](#).

La Posada Hosts #EatLikeALobo Block Party

The University of New Mexico unveils a whole new dining experience at the newly-renovated La Posada, Main Campus' premier dining hall, located in the heart of the student residential neighborhood. This almost 50-year-old building now features new dining options, natural light, a more collaborative dining area, a safer entrance and modern, energy efficient building features.

Join me at the official ribbon cutting ceremony and #EatLikeALobo Block Party on Aug. 30, beginning at 3 p.m., at the new La Posada plaza. Following the ceremony, there will be tours and food sampling of some of the new eats featured in the dining hall. For more info, visit [#EatLikeALobo Block Party](#).

Lobo Football Season Home Opener

Our first Lobo Football game is this Saturday, Sept. 2, at Dreamstyle Stadium. Our student-athletes will take on Abilene Christian University at 6 p.m. We hope to see the stadium filled with fans, showing cherry and silver pride in true Lobo fashion! Students, don't forget that all UNM athletic event tickets are FREE for you ([click here](#)), if you are enrolled in at least six credit hours. There is also a FREE shuttle to and from campus for UNM students. Eligible staff and faculty also receive discounted season tickets.

Until next time.

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim 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.