

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Town Hall and Re-engineering the University

As a follow-up to the three town halls I conducted last spring, and in preparation for our effort to re-engineer the university, I will be conducting my first town hall of this academic year on Thursday, Sept. 7, at noon in the SUB, Ballroom C. We will start with a short presentation, followed by an open question and answer session. If you are not able to attend, you may want to watch it live at the [UNM Facebook page](#). You can also submit questions at unmpres@unm.edu. I will take live questions, but will also select a few that are submitted ahead of time.

Prior to the town hall, you may want to look over the documents at [UNM Strategic Planning](#). While I do not personally have a specific trajectory planned, many of the ideas in this [article](#) have resonated with me. I also encourage you to [read the article](#), where General Mattis remarks: "If I was to sum up the single biggest problem of senior leadership in the Information Age, it's a lack of reflection." While there is urgency to act, I believe we must take the time to learn and reflect before committing ourselves to a particular path. Last but not least, we can all benefit from this [advice meant for incoming freshmen](#).

DACA

This morning, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Trump administration will end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has deferred deportations for those who came to the United States as young immigrants. Congress has been asked to come up with a legislative solution by the time the policy expires. The decision could affect roughly 800,000 young people who came to the U.S. illegally as children. While the ultimate fate of DACA and its protections are unknown, the Immigrant Legal Resource Center has provided a timely community advisory: [What Do I Need to Know If the DACA Program Ends?](#) A new UNM website, undocumented.unm.edu is under development and will go live by next week. This website will serve as a centralized repository for support and resources for our undocumented students and their families. It will include information regarding admissions, enrollment and financial aid, campus and community resources, legal support, donations and fundraising, and legislative action. Look to this website for updates about DACA, upcoming events, and for FAQs of university policies and procedures regarding federal immigration enforcement. In the meantime, until the undocumented.unm.edu website is live, you can find more information [here](#).

UNMH blood drive for Hurricane Harvey victims

I would like to invite you to an emergency blood drive to help victims of Hurricane Harvey. Blood donations are urgently needed. To assist with those efforts, a blood drive will be held at UNMH in the first floor lobby on Friday, Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Interested donors can schedule an appointment at UNMH Blood Drive. Coming together to help our neighbors is what America does.

New Director of Athletics

Last week, we were excited to [announce UNM's new director of athletics, Eddie Nuñez](#). Please join me in welcoming Eddie to the Lobo pack. Eddie comes to us from Louisiana State University (LSU), where he served in a variety of high-level athletics positions, including 14 years as deputy director of athletics.

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.