



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

### 9/11, the Prisoner's Dilemma and our Current State of Discourse

'Too often, we judge other groups by their worst examples while judging ourselves by our best intentions.' - George W. Bush

Tragedy has the power to bring out the best in humanity, transcending our numerous differences at times when we need it most. The past few weeks have born witness to the devastation of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, as well other natural and man-made disasters around the world, which have affected many people in our lives. These serve as a reminder that misfortune does not always need to be in our backyards to hit close to home. Where we may find common ground in fear and grief in tragedy, so can we find connection in the spirit of compassion and kindness.

Let us please take a moment to reflect and remember those who were lost on 9/11, by offering our thoughts of good will and strength to those who have survived disaster and loss. And while we're at it, let us note that we're in it together, and the best strategy, in that case, is to learn to live with our differences. This [article about the prisoner's dilemma](#) and its relation to the political climate in our country is worth reading.

#honor911

### Extended Winter Break

In a continued effort to express appreciation for the dedicated work of our employees, I am pleased to announce that I have approved an additional day to be added to the UNM winter break, giving our faculty and staff January 2, 2018 off as a holiday. This extends our break from December 22 to January 2. This will also align the end of our time off with that of APS, giving many the opportunity to spend the last day of winter break with their children. UNM employees in previously designated critical areas – including Health Sciences Center faculty, staff and students delivering clinical care, Campus Police and Physical Plant – will be expected to maintain regular work schedules, as usual. As a reminder, SRMC, UNMMG, Inc., and UNMH employees do not follow the UNM calendar, including holidays. A more detailed announcement will be forthcoming from Human Resources later in the week.

### Title IX

Potential changes to Title IX might be forthcoming, as signaled last Thursday by the Trump Administration. It is important to understand that while change may be on the horizon, current laws are still in place regarding the handling of sexual violence and the protection of all people on our campus. There should not be fear that these protections will be diminished in the future.

The U.S. Department of Justice, the US Attorney's Office for the District of New Mexico, and The University of New Mexico entered into an Agreement on October 17, 2016, involving UNM's obligations under federal civil rights laws to prevent and address sexual misconduct, and to provide clear and consistent policies and procedures for reporting, investigating, and responding to such conduct. This agreement is firmly in place and we have strict obligations that will be upheld.

The university has taken significant steps to work on preventing sexual violence and gender discrimination. We do this because as Lobos, we protect our pack and that transcends mere compliance. We believe in creating a safer campus and having a fair process for all people involved.

## **Call for Honorary Degree Nominations**

The Office of the Secretary hereby requests nominations for honorary degree recipients. Strong candidates will be eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance, and transcend geographical limitations.

Nominators should submit a letter stating in sufficient detail reasons for the nomination. Please send nominations to the Office of the Secretary, Scholes Hall 103, MSC05 3340 or [univsec@unm.edu](mailto:univsec@unm.edu) no later than Friday, October 13, 2017. For more information regarding submission criteria, visit [UNM Honorary Degrees](#).

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.*