



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Higher Education Challenges & Promise

As I continue to talk about re-engineering the university, I want to call attention to similar efforts elsewhere and to help illustrate UNM's case in the national context. First, note that New Mexico, and by association, UNM, remain among the best in terms of [return on higher education investment](#), due in no small measure to the state's investment and our low tuition.

Next, note that the cost of higher education has indeed increased faster than other services and the cost of most services did not decrease with [technological advances](#), as opposed to the cost of modern goods. As we start our own journey, I hope you will look at those who have gone before us - Stanford tried to envision what their [campus might look like in 2025](#). I will continue my attempt to refine the questions about the future of our university as I host an online Twitter Town Hall, in the next few weeks. I encourage you all to participate.

New Campus Climate Website

The new campus climate website, at <http://campusclimate.unm.edu>, launched today as part of Campus Safety Week is designed to help create a more inclusive campus - with regard to diversity, equity, inclusion and culture - as well as provide easy access to reporting hate and bias incidents. It includes a calendar that streams events related to campus climate. Events can be added by using "campus climate" as a keyword or by sending e-mail to campusclimate@unm.edu. I encourage everyone to visit the site and learn more about what UNM is doing to address campus climate.

Fond Farewell to Senator Pete Domenici

With the final farewell for Senator Pete Domenici taking place over the weekend, I wanted to offer the condolences of the UNM community to the family and friends of a true New Mexico icon. New Mexico has lost a great friend and hero. At UNM, we will forever remember him as a Lobo for life, having received a degree in education in 1954 and posting a 14-3 record as a senior baseball player, earning All-Skyline Conference honors. At UNM, we say that each of us defines all of us. The lifetime of Senator Domenici and his legacy of service to New Mexico, has indeed defined our state and what it means to be a New Mexican. From his career as a student athlete at UNM to our longest serving senator, he was a man known for his bipartisan leadership, a willingness to fight for his home state, and a champion of mental health research.

Sarah Belle Brown Award Nominations

Nominations for the 2017 [Sarah Belle Brown Community Service Award](#) are being accepted by my office now through Monday, October 16, 2017. The award was established by Doug Brown, a former UNM Regent and dean of Anderson School of Management, to honor his wife Sarah, for her dedication to outreach in our community and her compassion for those in need. Each year awards are given to a faculty member,

a staff member, and a student, who have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to our community by volunteering their time and expertise. The recipients receive \$1,500 cash or scholarship, thanks to a generous endowment by Doug and Sarah Brown. If you know someone who selflessly gives to those in need, I encourage you to recognize their kindness with a nomination.

Until next time.

Chaouki Abdallah
Interim President

Follow me on Twitter [@chaoukita](https://twitter.com/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.