

## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

### Homcoming Week

This week, everyone is invited to reignite their Lobo spirit as [Homecoming 2017 Living la Vida Lobo](#) events get underway. This year's theme is a celebration of each member of the Lobo community, as each of us defines all of us. Homecoming runs through Saturday, Sept. 30. With more than 50 events on the calendar, over six days, there is an event, lecture series, reunion, open house or tailgate opportunity to fit everyone's interests.

I hope everyone will be cheering on the Lobos this weekend, connecting with old friends and reliving fond memories. With our alumni ranks fast approaching 200,000 around the world, homecoming helps us engage UNM alums and keep them involved with the university.

I hope you will take advantage of the great fall weather and incredible lineup of events. A full schedule of events can be found on the [Alumni Association website](#). A special thank you to our colleagues at the UNM Alumni Relations Office and the Alumni Association for organizing and leading the homecoming events, and to every office, department and group, that will also partake in this grand celebration.

### U.S. Department of Education Announcement

Last Friday, the U.S. Department of Education withdrew the policy and guidance issued in its "Dear Colleague" letter in 2011, which spelled out the required campus response to reports of sexual violence, and the Q&A that followed in 2014. The Department of Education issued a new Q&A and reaffirmed sexual harassment guidance that had been issued previously. The new 2017 guidance allows for institutions to make drastic changes from the 2011 guidance. However, at UNM we're committed to ensuring a fair process for all, a safe campus and supporting those impacted by sexual misconduct. I urge you to go to the advocacy centers for support, if you are feeling a negative impact from this messaging. We are reviewing these new documents and guidance, but know that I am committed to the enforcement of civil rights and the prevention of sexual harassment and misconduct on this campus. UNM's efforts to ensure a safe learning and working environment will continue.

### Twitter Town Hall

I will hold a Twitter Town Hall next Monday, Oct. 2, from noon to 1 p.m. Join me as I answer live questions via Twitter [@chaoukita](#) using the hashtag #AskUNMPres.

### Call for Presidential Award of Distinction Nominations

Established in 2013, the Presidential Award of Distinction is one of the university's most prestigious awards, bestowed at the discretion of the university president. It is given to distinguished persons in recognition of outstanding career achievement, scholarly excellence, leadership in the professions, noteworthy public

service, humanitarian endeavors, or to honor other activities that the university president determines are worthy of the award.

Nominators are requested to submit a letter stating, in sufficient detail, their reasons for the nomination. Materials that accompany the letter should include: biographical information, a record of accomplishment, and supporting letters from those who can speak to that record. Because the selection committee must review many illustrious and notable nominees, please provide as complete a nomination as possible.

Nominations must be received in the Office of the President, Scholes Hall, Room 144, no later than Friday, Oct. 13, at 5 p.m. They may also be emailed to [aaltman@unm.edu](mailto:aaltman@unm.edu). If you have any questions, please call Abra Altman, strategic support manager, at (505) 277-1540.

For more information, visit [Presidential Award of Distinction Policy](#).

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.*