

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

The leaves are changing color on our beautiful campus, which means Fall Commencement is right around the corner. This year, during commencement ceremonies, I am honoring three deserving Lobos with the Presidential Award of Distinction. This award “is given to distinguished persons in recognition of outstanding career achievement, scholarly excellence, leadership in the professions, noteworthy public service, and humanitarian endeavors.” This year’s honorees have made groundbreaking achievements in medicine, exercise science and contributions to the Native community. The awardees are Dr. Robert Strickland, Dr. Jennifer Nez Denetdale and Dr. Len Kravitz. Read more about them at: [Presidential Award of Distinction](#).

UNM Gives

There is less than one week left of the [UNM Gives Campaign](#) - through our partnership with the United Way of Central New Mexico and the UNM Foundation-where faculty, staff and employees contribute time and money to charitable organizations, in an effort to change lives and circumstances. The campaign runs through Friday, Nov. 17. In order to encourage giving, Chancellor Roth and I will each make a personal pizza delivery, if one department reaches a noticeable level of monetary donations, both on Main Campus and at the HSC. Please consider making your pledge at unmgives.unm.edu. If each of us makes a small donation, we can collectively have an enormous impact in our community.

International Education Week (November 13-17)

This week, UNM celebrates global engagement by participating in the 17th annual [International Education Week](#) (IEW), which offers a wide variety of events for students, faculty and staff. These events are important in developing mutual understanding and respect, building global leadership, and investing in future relations between the US and people from around the world. Visit International Education Week for a detailed list of activities.

2017 Mandatory Training Reminder

This year’s Mandatory Training is now open, with a new deadline of Dec. 1, 2017. All UNM employees, including regular faculty and staff, temporary faculty and staff, on-call staff, and student employees (including graduate students) are required to complete the three designated university-wide mandatory training courses. For more information, please visit [Mandatory Training](#). To see who has and has not completed the 2017 Mandatory Trainings in your area, go to Learning Central for direct reports and HR Reports for your department and organization.

Creative Savings at University Services

I want to take a moment to commend University Services. Rather than replacing their fleet of cars during these challenging economic times, they chose to refurbish their existing ones, thus saving the University. By promoting the savings on the refurbished cars, they garnered some nice media coverage at <http://krqe.com/2017/11/09/unm-department-saves-thousands-with-vehicle-refurbishing-program/>.

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.