

PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Happy New Year and welcome back to campus. I hope each of you had time to rest, recharge, and spend some time with family and friends over the break. I had the pleasure of getting away with my family for some downtime and am happy to be back home.

Now it's time to get back to what we do best – provide world-class education and research. A new year brings opportunity for improvement, and a chance to do things better and learn from the past. It's interesting how, with the changing of the calendar, we use this month every year as an opportunity to forge a new trail, reach for a new goal, or strive for something different. It is that need inside of each of us, to endeavor to be better, that makes The University of New Mexico a place of excellence. I look forward to the coming year, to see the accomplishments we reach together.

The upcoming semester is going to be an exciting one. Campus will be abuzz next week, when students and faculty return for classes. My office is already at work, planning to welcome President Stokes' on March 1. We have a full semester of activities that will culminate with Spring 2018 Commencement in May. I look forward working with you and completing my service as interim president over the next two months, when I will return to the Office of the Provost.

Student Activities hosts two Welcome Back Days

The University of New Mexico hosts two Spring Welcome Back Days for students to begin the 2018 spring semester. The first will be held Wednesday, Jan. 17 and features information tables from UNM departments and programs. On Wednesday, Jan. 24, the focus will be on student organizations that will provide students opportunities to explore campus involvement. Both events will be held in the SUB Atrium from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit [Student Activities hosts Spring Welcome Back Days](#).

Albuquerque Business First Women of Influence Award Luncheon

Several Lobo women are being honored at the Albuquerque Business First's [Women of Influence](#) event on Feb. 12. This event will bring together some of the most powerful and innovative women in New Mexico. Those being honored are Dr. Doris Careaga Coleman, assistant professor, Marjorie Goldstein, VP of finance and chief financial officer at UNM Medical Group, Inc., Dr. Ane Gonzalez Lara, assistant professor, Dean Kymberly Pinder, dean of the College of Fine Arts at UNM, and Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, associate dean for curriculum and program development at the University College. I would like to commend each of these women who are true leaders in our community.

Top-10 News and Research Stories

The University Communication and Marketing Department recently released its 2017 top-10 stories in the [general](#) and [research](#) news areas. If you haven't had a chance, I encourage you to read the stories that highlight all the great work around campus.

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.