



## PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

I would like to welcome students and faculty back to campus. I hope everyone had a restful winter break and is ready to take on the Spring semester with vigor. I look forward to campus coming to life again, when students return and the frenetic energy of classes and events resumes.

### Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke of the purpose of education and his words ring even truer today than when [they were written in 1947](#). He said: "It seems to me that education has a two-fold function to perform in the life of man and in society: the one is utility and the other is culture. Education must enable a man to become more efficient, to achieve with increasing facility the legitimate goals of his life." He then goes on to summarize: "The function of education, therefore, is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. But education which stops with efficiency may prove the greatest menace to society. The most dangerous criminal may be the man gifted with reason, but with no morals."

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I call on every Lobo to not only honor the birthday of Dr. King, but to also take time to celebrate the principles he fought so hard for, and eventually lost his life over – equality, justice, tolerance, and the profound impact of nonviolent protests. If each of us can strive to live our life to the high standards he so passionately fought for, we can continue his legacy in our everyday lives and make our world better.

### 2018 Legislative Session

The New Mexico State Legislature begins today. It is a 30-day session this year, ending on February 15th. UNM Day at the legislature is Monday, Jan. 29. The Office of Government and Community Relations has many opportunities for you to stay informed. The [Government Relations' website](#) has legislative updates, a legislative bill tracker, the legislative calendar, and a link to sign up for the listserv, to receive updates directly to your inbox.

### 2017 UNM Gives Campaign

Thank you to everyone who generously made a pledge to the United Way of Central New Mexico or the UNM Foundation, during the [UNM Gives Campaign](#). The 2017 campaign raised over \$725,000 to give back to our community. I want to commend everyone who participated, even in these challenging fiscal times. Your generosity will help improve lives and strengthen New Mexican communities, including right here at UNM.

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.*