



## President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

This is a significant week in that it has been one year since I began this great adventure of serving as President of UNM. Last night, Janet and I had a toast and marveled that it has already been a year! Because UNM touches so many aspects of Albuquerque and New Mexico, our days and nights have been very busy and a year goes by with a speed we never imagined possible. One of the most critical things that I have learned during this first year is that the president does not lead alone, but does so by being engaged...with students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, government leaders, business leaders and workers, Lobo fans, the media and anyone who cares about the success of UNM. What we do at the University of New Mexico is special. We have the ability to change people's lives in a very positive way. Pivotal to this is the development and maintenance of relationships and questioning how we can make a difference in our world – in other words engagement. I end this first year and begin the next energized by the fact that New Mexico's flagship university is engaged in work that enriches our lives daily, and I want to make sure that value is recognized both within and beyond our state.

### Engaged Listening

Through engaged listening we, as a university, will make better-informed decisions. I began with a formal listening campaign, but it was quickly evident that true active listening and the creation of paths for ongoing bi-lateral communication would be an ongoing and iterative process. I met with the UNM community, business community, and local state and federal governments with the knowledge that building solid and genuine relationships is fundamental to our success. I also recognize that many of your relationships – with each other and beyond the campus – are just as important, and vital to how we represent UNM. We have made significant strides in public perception and responsiveness to the media, seeing strong support for our initiatives and vision. We are transparent and accessible, as well as reflective and progressive.

### Engaged Planning and Practice

Strategic planning drives the resources we need to accomplish the objectives defined for our university. A plan that shows what we will look like in the year 2020 will influence all of the decisions the university will make over the next several years. Throughout the past several months the UNM community has participated at various levels in the strategic planning process we call [UNM2020](#), and has been eager to be a part of decision making. So too, engaged governance has been critical to this process and I have found that working closely with our UNM Regents to ensure that they have been involved in all processes has resulted in a positive and supportive model. We have been bold in our approach to budgeting and seeking a new standard for results oriented management (ROM), in anticipation of meeting the expectations we have set for ourselves. In implementing a shared vision for the future that combines UNM2020 and UNM's historical focus on academic excellence and contemporary research, commitment to continued collaboration and engagement will help evolve campus culture and expand opportunities by responding to the needs of today's and tomorrow's students.

## Engaged University

Being an engaged university is a healthy reflection of who we been and who we aspire to be. We are achieving this through meaningfully transforming the student experience through the national [Foundations of Excellence](#) program and creating dynamic learning communities founded on experience, engagement and practice.

We have established the [Global Education Office](#) (GEO) in an effort to attract international students, create opportunities for our student to study abroad and to internationalize UNM by establishing centers beyond our boundaries, such as our new office in Beijing, China. Creating partnerships will lead to new opportunities for increased global relationships.

We are discovering and building new ways to attract public and private support through more robust community engagement. In collaboration with the City of Albuquerque and other public and private partners, we are in the process of developing Innovation ABQ, a hub of social and intellectual development that will create jobs and opportunities for our students and graduates. Albuquerque must become a center for development of “knowledge jobs” that in turn generates traditional jobs. In the next months we anticipate a number of developments to create a “rainforest” in the desert.

## Engaged for the Future

There is growing recognition in New Mexico of the intersection of purposes among public policy, economic development, health care, and education institutions in the state. There is interest among these partners in working together more cohesively to expand opportunities and to achieve common goals. As a key contributor, we need to collaborate in identifying problems, finding the solutions, and implement them as one university. We need to purposefully use knowledge to add value for our greater community, engaging students, communities and research.

[The University of Toledo Engagement Strategy](#) sums up the concept well: “We might define engagement as a change in perspective. The point of engagement is to go outside ourselves - to look, listen, and find what society, communities, families, businesses, and individuals need that we can provide - and then to provide it. It requires us to see ourselves more clearly from the perspectives of our constituents.” I am committed to being an engaged President, and seeing our future picture as an engaged university become a reality.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob