



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning and welcome back!

Beginning the Fall 2013 Semester in High Gear

Last Monday, I welcomed UNM's new faculty at a reception at University House, and was truly excited by their energy and enthusiasm for the institution and what we will accomplish together. They join a world-class faculty at UNM, bringing a wealth of talent and expertise that will enhance the University's teaching, learning, discovery and service. We have more than 100 new scholars joining us across 42 different departments, including four new faculty for the Honors College.

Yesterday we welcomed our newest Lobos, the [Class of 2017, and their families at Freshman Convocation](#). It was my extreme honor to speak to this freshman class, to feel their excitement, and to watch the pride of their families as they entrusted their students to UNM for the next four years. Provost Abdallah and I actually had a competition to see who could recruit more students for this class. Please join me in helping our newest Lobos feel welcome and supported in the UNM community!

Foundations of Excellence

To support our outstanding faculty and students to the fullest, we have also been working hard to foster the best in educational excellence and research innovation. As a part of the [UNM Foundations of Excellence](#), we have a new tool called [LoboAchieve](#), powered by [Starfish Solutions](#), that "encourages students to engage more deeply in their academic lives by connecting them to the people and resources in place to help them succeed." We have also created a [degree-mapping system](#) that shows students which courses they need to take in a particular area in a suggested sequence. We know that our students' academic choices are many, and in order to assist them in a successful experience here at UNM, we will continue to provide both in-person and online resources to support their goals.

UNM Success Reflected in Our Donors and Volunteers

As a university community we have come together to provide support that is enabling us to transform UNM. I am extremely pleased to announce that UNM raised \$81,598,617 in private support during the past fiscal year thanks to the generosity of 14,932 donors. This is a remarkable achievement made possible through the efforts of countless people at the UNM Foundation and throughout the University. UNM's deans, professors, doctors, grant writers, volunteers, coaches, alumni and friends have all joined together to connect generous donors with excellence at UNM. [UNM2020](#) plan goals include growing our endowment to provide a source of predictable financial assistance going forward. In addition to raising private funds for the University, the UNM Foundation manages the combined endowments funds of the Foundation, the University, and affiliated units, which together are called the Consolidated Investment Fund (CIF). During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the CIF grew from \$329.5 million to \$358.4 million. Of the \$81.5 million raised this past year, \$13.5 million was added to the CIF. Also, \$37.5 million was added as a result of investment performance (an 11.3 percent return), \$13.5 million was transferred to the University for scholarships and programs, while \$8.6 million was distributed for other University priorities. In the 2012 National Association of College and University Business and Financial Officers (NACUBO) Commonfund Survey of Endowments, the performance of the CIF ranked 198th

of 831 institutions, placing it in the top quartile of those institution reporting. The CIF ranked 49th in performance among 250 endowment funds of comparable size. I know many of you are among those who made a gift, and inspired others to join in support of UNM, and I sincerely thank you and each and every friend and alumni who has reached out to support the students, faculty, researchers, patients and programs of UNM.

Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." Last week I attended the inaugural UNM Board of Regents Volunteer Summit where we celebrated the work of the many volunteers at UNM and the exceptional services they provide to the University community. Our volunteers share their time, talent and treasure with the University in so many ways. I thank each and every one of our volunteers for reaching out to help the students and faculty; for the work you do in strengthening our programs; for the support you provide our athletes; and for the fine work you accomplish for our doctors and patients here at UNM.

A Campus of Opportunities

This week continues to be packed full of exciting activities and opportunities to get to know UNM. I encourage you to take advantage of getting to know your campus and what it has to offer during [UNM Welcome Back Days](#). To get your creative flow in gear, we are also very excited to welcome back [TEDxABQ](#) at Popejoy Hall on Saturday, Sept. 7, showcasing New Mexico's biggest ideas and fascinating thinkers. If you want to discover and interact with these extraordinary people, as well as meet others who are also excited about "big ideas," tickets are available at the [UNM ticket office](#) or online.

Have a great first week and Go Lobos!

Bob