



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

Since this is a short week for many of you, I would like to begin by offering our students the best of luck on midterm exams and papers before taking off for a well-deserved fall break.

Strengthening Community Engagement in Gallup and Zuni

The UNM branch campuses are an integral part of UNM and I am committed to partnering with branch leadership to understand the issues that are relevant to their particular campuses and the communities they serve. This past week, I visited the [Gallup Branch and then the Zuni Pueblo](#) to learn more about the Engaging Teachers and Community project. In Gallup I met with students, faculty, staff, the advisory council, members of the community, lawmakers and alumni. The campus held a very warm welcome reception for Dr. Chris Dyer, who has made great strides in the short time he has been the executive director at UNM Gallup. He has engaged the community and begun to address many of the issues that the campus has been facing, such as long student commutes (some student travel as far as 100 miles round trip), retention and graduation rates, connectivity and daycare. It is more than evident that the vitality, energy, and positive outlook he brings to his position have already struck a chord with the Gallup community.

I was invited to tour the high school and elementary school on the Zuni Pueblo to see and hear more about our partnership there. The [W.K. Kellogg Foundation has awarded UNM a nearly \\$600,000 grant](#) to help educational assistants and students in Zuni get their UNM teaching degree and stay in their communities to serve the cultural as well as academic needs. We are hoping to extend our partnership through the Gallup campus to continue to meet the educational needs of the Zuni community. I look forward to working with and visiting all of our campuses and communities we serve.

Competition and Collaboration

Our first football game against another four-year institution was played on the first day of 1894, 18 years before New Mexico achieved statehood. We played against New Mexico A&M, which would later become NMSU, and thus the classic rivalry between the Lobos and the Aggies began. The attendance and atmosphere at the match-up this past Saturday was phenomenal! Our players truly demonstrated how important this competition is to them and our university.

As Bethany Christie, Forbes staff writer, described the competition between University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Duke University in ["College Frenemies: Real Rivalry Or Just Friendly Competition"](#), the relationship between UNM and NMSU is a strong, popular and important sports rivalry that has been carried on for many years, our two universities are collaborators in many ways. Prior to Saturday's game, we hosted a joint Board of Regents meeting where we discussed our common legislative agendas regarding the funding formula, the Legislative Lottery Scholarship, capital outlay and education reform. As two of the state's three research institutions, we work closely and cooperate on many academic and research projects that benefit the citizens of New Mexico, including health care, water resources and energy. We are also exploring further opportunities to expand our course offerings

with reciprocal credit for classes that are unique to each institution, allowing students to earn credits for courses that are not taught at their home institutions. Participation in the New Mexico Consortium (NMC) connects us, not only to each other and New Mexico Tech as research institutions, but offers opportunities to collaborate on joint initiatives with Los Alamos National Laboratory in the areas of science, education and economic development in order to increase the impact of scientific research on the local and national economy.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob