



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

When The University of New Mexico laid its first cornerstone in 1889, New Mexico was still a territory, and campus was a single building on the mesa...a single building that made a significant difference. Throughout its 125 years, UNM has grown and continued an unwavering commitment to educating tomorrow's leaders in academic and professional disciplines as the state's flagship university.

A University of Opportunity

It is important to remember that we have always been, and continue to be, a university of opportunity for everyone. Access with Support to Succeed is one of UNM's core values, giving all who desire the opportunity to take full advantage of the wealth of resources at UNM and to be fully included in the UNM community. The recent conversations about administrative decisions made in regard to [student aid and programming](#) need to be kept in the context of a larger model for student success. Scholarship and grant money alone does not equate to success; providing a supportive environment and the tools to assist student to achieving their potential and graduating with the least amount of debt does.

The University is optimizing the way in which we approach not only funding, but the entire freshman year experience to give our students the foundation they need to graduate from UNM with the least amount of debt. The University community, government leaders, and our greater New Mexico community expect student success to be a top priority and that our investments (personal, financial, operational) tie in with that priority. We have been collaboratively creating accountable models by which to achieve this through the UNM2020 planning process, Foundations of Excellence, enhanced advisement, and accountability measures for retention and graduation. Thoughtful work has gone into all of this planning, and much more will be required to implement it properly. The Bridge Scholarship must be a bridge to success; we are working to assure this outcome. I will be meeting with community leaders this week to ensure that enhanced transparency and communication are an embedded part of our processes.

The Future is Up to Us

Our students represent the next generation of leaders who have the ideas and resolve to face our nation's biggest challenges. They now have been afforded an opportunity to voice their generation's vision of our country's future and to build a movement to raise awareness and engagement on America's long-term fiscal and economic challenges. After a competitive, nationwide application process, a team of UNM students was selected to participate in "[Up to Us](#)," a privilege only awarded up to only 25 collegiate groups nationwide as part of the [Clinton Global Initiative University](#). The competition is designed to have students educate their peers on the effects of the nation's rising debt and motivate action in Washington on fiscal issues. The teams' campaigns range from hosting symposiums or speeches with elected leaders and fiscal experts to facilitating classroom or town hall discussions. The effectiveness of the final projects will be judged by a panel of business leaders and President Clinton will present an award to the top team in April of 2014. I look forward to following the competition and am excited to see how our students contribute to this critical conversation.

Road to College

I am very pleased to welcome the students of [Amy Biehl High School](#) (ABHS) to our campus on Wednesday for the charter high school's first [Road to College Walk-A-Thon](#). After walking from their high school located in down-town Albuquerque to CNM, 300 students will walk to the Student Union Building on main campus to experience campus life and take away information about the possibilities that come with a UNM degree.

Amy Biehl High School is a shining example of an institution focused on the transformation of young people from all walks of life into civic-minded college-students while they are still in high school. By requiring every student to complete two college classes at either UNM or CNM and participating in year-long community service project, 98 percent of ABHS students go to college! The event will demonstrate this student body's commitment to college while raising funds to assist with costs associated with getting a higher education. For many of these high school students – 44 percent are first-generation college-bound – this will be their first time on a university campus, which is what makes this event so important.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob