



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I would like to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for the many ways in which you serve UNM. To our students who are making important life-decisions and sacrifices to pursue an education, I thank you for choosing to be a part of one of this nation's finest universities, and wish you strength and perseverance. To our faculty who are dedicated to educating and mentoring our students, I applaud your diligence in supporting them to achieve their goals and making UNM an institution that is discovery-driven and globally engaged. To our staff members who strive daily to serve all of our constituents with competence, communication and customer service, I thank you for your energy and commitment. Remember many of our health sciences and physical plant faculty and staff will work on Thanksgiving and Christmas and we appreciate their extraordinary dedication. To our alumni and friends who show their Lobo pride and support, I am thankful for your gifts of time, talent and treasure. On a very personal level, I am exceedingly grateful to serve as the 21st president of this great University – my own university, to be a part of something much greater than myself, and to have the love and support of my family and friends.

UNM Students Welcome Navajo President Ben Shelly

Native American Heritage Month is celebrated in November to showcase the rich culture of the native people of this land as well as honor the American Indians. In honor of this commemorative month, the Beta Sigma Epsilon fraternity at UNM is hosting Ben Shelly, President of the Navajo Nation, who will speak this evening from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Willard Room of Zimmerman Library. As leader of the largest Native Nation in the United States, and the first New Mexican to hold this office, President Shelly will share his vision of economic prosperity for Indian Country and his personal thoughts on leadership and Navajo culture.

Community Engagement is Fundamental to Flagship Mission

There is no doubt that UNM is committed to curricular engagement as well as community outreach and partnerships. As a Carnegie classified “very high research” university, we are in a unique position to leverage our leadership potential in the research fields by promoting engagement and engaged scholarship on campus and in our surrounding communities. It is important to note that at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) such as ours, the campus population reflects the community that it serves. Our community engagement mission is distinctive because it instills in our students learning that is grounded in the idea that what we do has impact far beyond the boundaries of our campus. I am pleased to share that Professor Virginia Scharff, associate provost for Faculty Development, is leading the process of preparing UNM's application for the [Carnegie Foundation's 2015 Community Engagement Classification](#).

This elective classification represents a significant acknowledgement of the importance of community and is based on voluntary participation by institutions. The application will require extensive documentation of activities across campus and of UNM's institutional commitment to engagement, social accountability and community. Engagement is an essential aspect of our flagship mission and

identity. This is an important opportunity for us to affirm that identity with a public and nationally recognized classification that will raise the profile of the great work faculty, staff, and students are already doing, as well as strengthen and create new partnerships. If you would like to learn more about how you can contribute to the [development of the application](#) or if you have questions, please contact Monica Kowal, Ph.D. at kowal1@unm.edu.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday and Go Lobos!

Bob