



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

As we approach the end of the semester, I want to first and foremost wish our students the best of luck on their final exams and term papers this week, and congratulate them on what I hope has been a challenging and rewarding semester. I also want to thank the UNM Mortar Board Senior Honor Society and the student organizations who placed over 14,000 luminarias in a stellar display around campus this past Friday for our annual Hanging of the Greens. The wreath presented to Janet and me at University House is a beautiful holiday symbol reflective of the spirit of the season. Once again we had a substantial number of people join us for caroling and the President's Reception at Hodgin Hall where the "U" was festively lit – what a wonderful new tradition that has allowed us to grow the event with the campus and allow Janet and me to be a part of the caroling processional.

A New Class of Lobos

Congratulations to the over 2,100 students who are poised to receive their degrees as members of the Fall 2013 graduating class! Those who walk at the [commencement ceremony](#) this Friday evening will be addressed by entrepreneur Stephen Mitchell, who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from UNM in Civil Engineering, as their commencement speaker. Steve's career is a great example of where you can go with a UNM degree; virtually anywhere! I hope that as you become official Lobo alum, you will fondly remember your alma mater, remain an engaged part of the UNM community, and perhaps even come back for an additional degree.

Presidential Award of Distinction

Recognition is a valuable and important part of university life. My interactions with some of the extraordinary individuals we are fortunate to have affiliated with UNM led me to question how the office of the President recognizes those who have made exceptional contributions that reflect the high quality of the University. This contemplation led to the establishment of a new award – the [UNM Presidential Award of Distinction](#). The award is given to persons in recognition of outstanding career achievement, scholarly excellence, and leadership in their profession, noteworthy public service, and humanitarian endeavors. Fall 2013 commencement marks the inaugural awarding of this prestigious honor. I will present two individuals who have not only served UNM, but have also made significant contributions to their fields of discipline: Dr. Steve Brueck for his leadership of the Center for High Technology Materials (CTHM) has provided an excellent example of what can be achieved by a visionary leader from the ground up, and Dr. Cleve Moler whose creation of MATLAB revolutionized programming language for engineering and science students around the world. It is truly my honor to present the University's acknowledgement of the vast accomplishments made over their careers.

Acknowledging We Must Do Better

It has come to my attention that in some of my office's communications, material provided to me for inclusion lacked the appropriate attribution to its source. I am pleased that these concerns were presented directly to me without hesitation, illustrating that my staff, and I are held to the same high standards we expect of our faculty and students. I am very disappointed to learn that our editorial

process did not catch these instances. I assure you that a corrective process is now in place to prevent similar cases from occurring in the future.

Human Resources Fundamental to Creating a Great UNM

The UNM Human Resources Department is a much more than just the hiring arm within our institution. A critical component to their mission is to provide educational tools for our staff to improve performance, service and knowledge and enable them to apply them to the many levels of professional service here at UNM. The end of the year brings a number of checklists for us both personally and professionally. HR has made a concerted effort to inform staff that they need to keep current with their required training through their communication efforts, so let us please assist them having all of our staff complete the [2013 UNM Required Training](#) by Tuesday, Dec. 31 – maybe even having it done before we close for Winter Break.

With many of our faculty and students leaving campus after this upcoming weekend, this will be the last message from me to the campus community this year. I wish all of you happy holidays, meaningful time with family and friends, and an energized outlook for 2014.

Also, congratulations to our Men's Soccer Team on advancing to the Final Four! You have made all New Mexico soccer fans!

Go Lobos!

Bob